

THE AMERICAN Legion

\$2.50 DECEMBER 2012

The magazine for a strong America

www.legion.org

SOFT POWER IN AFRICA

U.S. forces train Senegal's commandos to fight terror

CARE FOR THE CAREGIVERS

Interview with USAA CEO Joe Robles



FOR GOD AND COUNTRY SINCE 1919

INTERNATIONAL CURRENCY HITS 20 YEARS IN BUSINESS.... THANKING YOU WITH \$29.99 SILVER EAGLES

FREE
SHIPPING

1 OZ. \$1 SILVER AMERICAN EAGLE

ONLY \$29.99
(Limit 1 Per Household)



2013 SILVER AMERICAN EAGLES

The highly anticipated pre-release for the NEW 2013 Silver American Eagles is here. And, as our way of celebrating our upcoming 20th year in business, we are offering you this popular U.S. coin at the special pre-release price of only **\$29.99**. Only 250 of these highly coveted 2013 Silver Eagles are available for this extraordinary offer. A strict limit of **1 per household** must be adhered to... each additional coin will be available at OUR COST.... Call and order yours today.

20TH
YEAR

GENUINE UNITED STATES LEGAL TENDER

These amazing Eagles are the "real thing," genuine U.S. legal tender...their precious metal content, a full 1 oz of silver, is backed and guaranteed by the full faith of the U.S. government. In addition, we guarantee 100% satisfaction with our 10-day in home inspection period.

ACT NOW FOR SPECIAL PRE-RELEASE PRICE

Order yours today for only **\$29.99**. But don't wait, order now because any change in the price of silver could force us to withdraw this offer at anytime and without further notice. Don't miss this opportunity... Call now!

CALL NOW TOLL FREE (800) 323-5055

Expected ship date is mid Jan. 2013 pending release from U.S. Mint.



INTERNATIONAL CURRENCY, L.L.C.

8725 Eastex Freeway • Beaumont, TX 77708



IC# 2LAN1112



★ ★ ★ TO HONOR YOUR SERVICE TO COUNTRY ★ ★ ★

EXCLUSIVE UNITED STATES MILITARY BIRTHSTONE WATCHES

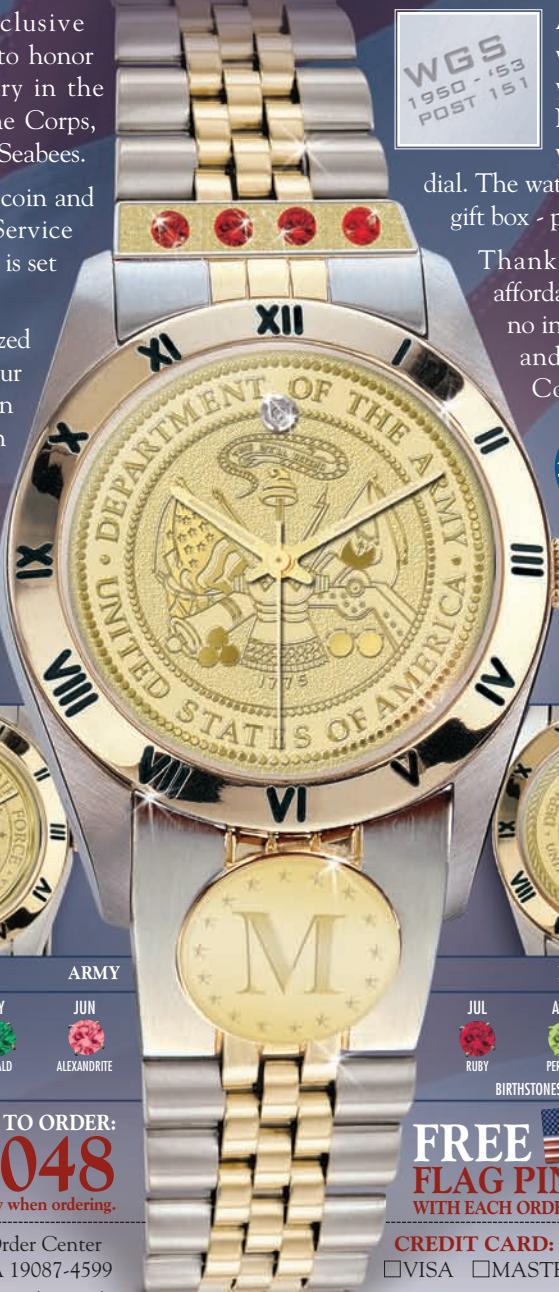
Personalized with Your Birthstones, Monogram, Initials, Service Years and Post Number

We proudly present our exclusive Military Birthstone watches, to honor those who have served our Country in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Merchant Marines and Seabees.

The special dial is minted like a fine coin and captures every fine detail of your Service Branch Emblem. A genuine diamond is set at 12 O'clock.

The unique dress bracelet is customized with four brilliant birthstones and your personal monogram. The golden watch bezel, with etched roman numerals frames the dial, and touches of genuine 24 Karat Gold complete this fine watch.

The precision quartz watch movement keeps accurate time within seconds per month, and provides years of dependable service.



As a final touch of exclusivity, your watch back will be engraved with your initials, years of service and Post Number along with a monogram of your choice on the band, below the dial. The watch is delivered to you in a handsome gift box - perfect for Birthdays and Holidays.

Thank You priced at just \$125*, an affordable payment plan is available with no interest. This fine watch is designed by and created exclusively for Veterans Commemoratives™. It is not sold in stores. Your satisfaction is guaranteed 100% or return within 30 days for a refund or replacement.

Proudly Assembled in America

So, order today with confidence. You have earned the right to wear this unique watch as a permanent reminder of your special place in history.



NAVY	AIR FORCE	ARMY
JAN 	FEB 	MAR
GARNET	AMETHYST	AQUAMARINE

SELECT YOUR BIRTHSTONE ABOVE AND ENTER CHOICE ON ORDER FORM.

FOR FASTEST SERVICE CALL TOLL FREE TO ORDER:
1-800-255-3048

Mon - Fri from 9am - 5pm EST Have Credit Card ready when ordering.

MAIL TO: Veterans Commemoratives™ Watch Order Center
Two Radnor Corp. Ctr., Suite 120, Radnor, PA 19087-4599

YES. I wish to order a Diamond Service Branch Watch featuring my Birthstone and Monogram, as follows:

Army Navy Air Force Marine Corps Coast Guard
 Merchant Marine (not shown) Seabee (not shown)

BIRTHSTONE MONTH (1): _____ MONOGRAM (1): _____

INITIALS DESIRED (3): _____ YRS. SERVED: _____ to _____

POST NUMBER: _____

I WISH TO PAY AS FOLLOWS:

Enclosed is my check or money order for \$125* per watch payable to "Veterans Commemoratives" as payment in full, OR
 Charge my credit card \$125* per watch as payment in full, OR
 Charge my credit card in four monthly installments of \$31.25* each.

* Plus \$14.95 per watch for engraving, shipping & handling. PA residents add 6% sales tax (\$8.40).

FREE
FLAG PIN
WITH EACH ORDER

ORDER BY
DECEMBER 14TH
FOR CHRISTMAS DELIVERY.



CREDIT CARD:
 VISA MASTERCARD AMEX DISCOVER

CC#: _____ exp. _____

SIGNATURE: _____

SHIPPING ADDRESS (We CANNOT ship to P.O. Boxes) Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone # (_____) _____ Email: _____

©2009-2012 ICM BRSWAT-ALM-1212

FOR OTHER FINE MILITARY WATCHES & RINGS VISIT VETERANS COMMEMORATIVES™ ONLINE AT VETCOM.COM



contents

December 2012 • Vol. 173, No. 6

18 **Upside Down Lives**

Even with long-awaited financial assistance, parents and spouses of wounded veterans are strained by 24/7 caregiving. *By Ken Olsen*

ON THE COVER

28 **Spartans of Senegal**

Trained by U.S. forces, West Africans fight to keep terrorism from creeping in. *By Mark Seavey*

Photo by Marine Lt. Dominic William Pitrone

40 **The Contender**

How competitive shooting at an American Legion post gave a teenager the confidence to achieve his dreams. *By Gerry Souter*

48 **'Because of the Common Cause'**

USAA CEO Joe Robles shares the organization's recipe for success during tough economic times – and how its relationship with The American Legion helps.

52 **My America**

Henry van Dyke, preacher, author and poet

A GIFT TO REMEMBER

Marine Sgt. Jesse James deployed three times to Iraq and Afghanistan, where he searched for and destroyed enemy explosives. He returned with traumatic brain injuries and PTSD, and the Homes for Wounded Warriors Program recently built James and his family a new house in Boone County, Ind. During his rehabilitation James learned to use a wood lathe, and he presented a handmade gavel to National Commander Jim Koutz during the commander's visit to his home department of Indiana. *Photo by Eldon Lindsay*

The American Legion Magazine, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 2.4 million members. These wartime veterans, working through 14,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and Country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youth.

5 **Vet Voice**

8 **Commander's Message**

10 **Big Issues**

12 **Living Well**

16 **Veterans Update**

54 **Rapid Fire**

68 **Comrades**

72 **Parting Shots**



NOTICE TO VETERANS WITH MESOTHELIOMA

**WHEN TRAINING,
EXPERIENCE AND
A STEADY HAND
REALLY COUNT,
TURN TO FELLOW
VETERANS.**



As former Marines and Sailors, we served together yesterday. As seasoned attorneys, we'll fight this disease with you today.

Attorneys at Coady Law firm have successfully represented veterans in Mesothelioma claims nationwide for two decades. We've helped them understand their rights—and secured millions for their families in just compensation.

Trust in the experience of shipmates who served with you. Contact the Coady Law Firm. Receive a **FREE**, no obligation consultation.



Bud Coady
Harvard, 1979
USMC, 1979-89, 1991
Gulf War Veteran
Attorney at Law



Dave Fanikos
Harvard, 1985
USMC 1986-1989
Attorney at Law

**Call 1-888-802-MESO (6376)
FOR A NO OBLIGATION CONSULTATION.**

205 Portland Street • Boston, MA 02114 • Web: www.coadylaw.com

COADY

LAW FIRM



Cover,
*The American
Legion Magazine*,
June 1944

Some things never change: The soldier far from home still dreams about home, Mom, and apple pie.

This is particularly true of our wounded men and women who are far from home and hurting.

The American Legion's Operation Comfort Warriors program makes sure these folks have the personal items they need from home. To make sure they will always have those items, leave part of your estate to the Legion's Operation Comfort Warriors program through your will.

A bequest to The American Legion is one of the simplest and most popular ways to ensure that the Legion's programs will continue to support soldiers and veterans into the future. It's a gift that costs you nothing during your lifetime yet allows you to have a lasting impact, just as those before you have done, while receiving valuable long-term tax savings.

To find out how, please visit www.legion.giftplans.org/bequest.

The information contained herein is offered for general informational and educational purposes. State law may affect the results illustrated. You should seek the advice of an attorney for applicability to your own situation.
© Pentera, Inc. Planned giving content. All rights reserved.



THE AMERICAN LEGION

Contact us today and visit us at: www.legion.giftplans.org

Mike Pirnat • Fundraising Division
mpirnat@legion.org • (317) 860-3006

THE AMERICAN Legion

MAGAZINE

NATIONAL COMMANDER James E. Koutz
PUBLISHER The American Legion
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Jeffrey O. Brown
EDITOR Jeff Stoffer
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MAGAZINE OPERATIONS Henry Howard
MANAGING EDITOR Matt Grills
ASSOCIATE EDITOR Laura Edwards
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Julie Campbell
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR Steve Brooks
DISPATCH EDITOR Cameran Richardson
ASSISTANT WEB EDITOR Andrew Roney
WEB MANAGER Jacob Piercy
ART DIRECTOR Holly K. Soria
DESIGNER Jason Reed
PHOTOGRAPHER/VIDEOGRAPHER Eldon R. Lindsay
PRODUCTION MANAGER Tony Heath
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR Alan W. Dowd

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE COMMISSION

CHAIRMAN James H. Hall *Hopewell, NJ*
VICE CHAIRMAN Frank C. Ward *Greer, S.C.*
COMMANDER'S REPRESENTATIVE Terry D. Lewis *Philadelphia*
CONSULTANT Albert W. Coughlin *Park Ridge, Ill.*
Robert A. Corrigan *Bronx, N.Y.*
MEMBERS Roger H. Anderson *South Windsor, Conn.*
James F. Angell *Sedro Woolley, Wash.*
Rodger A. Bennett *Thawville, Ill.*
Henry P. Bradley *North Quincy, Mass.*
Bettylou Evans *Laurie, Del.*
Dennis E. Fritz *Columbus Junction, Iowa*
Thomas A. Fernlund *St. Cloud, Minn.*
Paul L. Greer *Leesville, La.*
Paul M. Kennedy *Pittsburgh*
Mary E. Lepley *Douglasville, Ga.*
James J. Leyser *Fresno, Calif.*
John J. Michalski *New Carlisle, Ind.*
Silas M. Noel *Frankfort, Ky.*
George J. Sinkewitz *Huntington, W. Va.*
Jerry Smith *Trussville, Ala.*
Edwin R. Strain *Batesville, Ark.*
Carl Swisher *Columbus, Ohio*
David R. Walkup *Oklahoma City*
Danny Wiley *Leavenworth, Kan.*

NEC LIAISON COMMITTEE Randall Coffman *Chairman, Russellsburg, Ky.*
Neal L. Thomas, Jr. *Colorado Springs, Colo.*
Michael D. Wood *Pahrump, Nev.*
Charles W. Goodin *Jefferson City, Mo.*

ADVERTISING

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR Diane Andretti
ADVERTISING ASSISTANT Chris Elliot
CONTACT The American Legion Magazine
P.O. Box 7068
Indianapolis, IN 46207
ADVERTISING SALES James G. Elliott Company, Inc.
NEW YORK (212) 588-9200
DETROIT (248) 530-0300
CHICAGO (312) 236-4900
LOS ANGELES (213) 624-0900

Copyright 2012 by The American Legion

The American Legion (ISSN 0886-1234) is published monthly by The American Legion, 5745 Lee Road, Indianapolis, IN 46216. Periodicals postage paid at Indianapolis, IN 46204 and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The American Legion, Data Services, P.O. Box 1954, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

Canada Post International Publications Mail (*Canadian Distribution*)

Sales Agreement No. PM40063731. Return Undeliverable

Canadian Addresses to: Station A, P.O. Box, Windsor ON N9A 6J5.

Re-entered second-class mail matter at Manila Central Post Office dated Dec. 22, 1993.



Printed in USA
Member Audit Bureau of Circulations

The Magazine for a Strong America

HOW TO CONTACT US

For assistance with membership record verification, membership applications, change of address, notification of member death or changes to magazine or Dispatch subscriptions, contact customer service.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

(317) 860-3111

cs@legion.org

The American Legion

Data Services

P.O. Box 1954

Indianapolis, IN 46206

For change of address by mail, attach old address label, provide new address and membership number.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

(317) 630-1200

700 N. Pennsylvania St.

Indianapolis, IN 46204

P.O. Box 1055

Indianapolis, IN 46206

magazine@legion.org

(317) 630-1298

www.legion.org

Free with membership

Non-members: \$15

Foreign: \$21

Post-sponsored and widows: \$6

Single copies: \$3.50

AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE

EMAIL

TELEPHONE

WEBSITE

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Free with membership

Non-members: \$15

Foreign: \$21

Post-sponsored and widows: \$6

Single copies: \$3.50

MEMBERSHIP IN THE AMERICAN LEGION

Veterans who served at least one day of active military duty during wartime, or are serving now, are potentially eligible for membership in The American Legion. Members must have been honorably discharged or still serving honorably.

ELIGIBILITY

Aug 2, 1990 – current

Dec. 20, 1989 – Jan. 31, 1990

Aug. 24, 1982 – July 31, 1984

Feb. 28, 1961 – May 7, 1975

June 25, 1950 – Jan. 31, 1955

Dec. 7, 1941 – Dec. 31, 1946

April 6, 1917 – Nov 11, 1918

(Merchant Marines who served from Dec. 7, 1941 to Dec. 31, 1946, are also eligible.)

TO JOIN

Membership Division

ia@legion.org

(317) 630-1321

www.legion.org

PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

(202) 861-2700

var@legion.org

ECONOMIC

202.861.2700

econ@legion.org

FAMILY SUPPORT NETWORK

(800) 504-4098

familysupport@legion.org

CITIZENS FLAG ALLIANCE

(317) 630-1384

cfa@cfa-inc.org

www.legion.org/flag

LEGION RIDERS

(317) 630-1265

www.legion.org/riders

legionriders@legion.org

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

(317) 630-1249

baseball@legion.org

www.legion.org/baseball

BOYS NATION

(317) 630-1207

boysstate-nation@legion.org

JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS

(317) 630-1249

juniorshooting@legion.org

NATIONAL ORATORICAL CONTEST

(317) 630-1249

oratorical@legion.org

HEROES TO HOMETOWNS

(703) 908-6250

heroestohometowns@legion.org

USAA

(877) 699-2654

www.usaa.com/legion

SCHOLARSHIPS & CHARITABLE TRUSTS

AMERICAN LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP

(317) 630-1212

scholarships@legion.org

AMERICAN LEGION ENDOWMENT FUND

(317) 630-1202

childwelfare@legion.org

FOUNDATION

(317) 630-1202

www.cwf-inc.org

NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND

(317) 630-1376

ia@legion.org

AMERICAN LEGION MERCANDISE

ORDER PLACEMENT AND CATALOG REQUESTS

(888) 453-4466

emblem.legion.org

emblem@legion.org

AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

(317) 569-4500

www.legion.org/auxiliary

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

(317) 630-1200

www.legion.org/sons

'On the Brink'

Thank you for Alan W. Dowd's excellent article about the Cuban Missile Crisis (October). I was one of the school kids who "ducked and covered" in the 1950s, and I was 21 when President Kennedy gave his address on Oct. 22, 1962. Although I would go on to serve in Vietnam, that was the first time in my life that I felt I might actually be involved in a war. It was a sobering moment that I still vividly recall.

— Bruce W. Rider, Grapevine, Texas



This article was interesting at a command level, but it left out many of the men who served as America's shield. On Oct. 12-13, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division was airlifted from Marine Corps Air Station El Toro, Calif., to Guantanamo, landing at 2 a.m. and then hiking into daylight heat as high as 114 degrees to set up a perimeter around the fence separating the base from Oriente province. We faced a large force of Cubans and Russians, and I recall a few nighttime combat patrols around the fence. Marine recon units were also operating there.

— William Bertoldi, Yucaipa, Calif.

I was radar on USS *Moale* during the crisis. In March 1962, we were deployed to Cuba to snoop on the Russians. Several of our radarmen were sent to a Navy intelligence school to learn how to operate electronics-intercept gear. A group of Army guys joined us on board, along with a large box anchored on the hangar deck. We patrolled for a month, gathering the footprints of electronic devices, including a Russian guidance system. We

spent a lot of time at general quarters when their patrol boat challenged us. They never got close, though, probably because they didn't like the twin 5-inch 38mm barrels looking at them.

We received the Navy Expeditionary Medal for this operation. I've tried to learn more about why, but I can't seem to get a straight answer. Naval records say that we were part of the blockade, but we were in the Mediterranean in October.

— Jim O'Donnell, Pueblo, Colo.

Fifty years ago, I was a 22-year-old missile tech aboard USS *George Washington*, the first submarine to carry Polaris missiles. We'd been underwater on routine patrol for 57 days, and were scheduled to return to our sub tender in Scotland when we were told of the Cuban crisis and advised to remain on station. We were far from Cuba but very close to the Soviet Union. Then the call came: "Man battle stations missile. This is not a drill." Our 16 missiles were readied. After what seemed like several hours, we got the word to secure battle stations — the crisis was over.

— Harry F. Gahm, Clementon, N.J.

I was a Marine radio-telegraph operator aboard USS *York County*. For several days prior to President Kennedy's address to the nation, we were copying messages indicating Russian ships with deck cargo thought to be missiles or other military hardware, apparently bound for Cuba. We were reportedly within days of our U.S. port when an encrypted message for the captain came over the net. Twenty-four hours later, we were anchored off the coast of Cuba with warships as far as you could see in every direction. We were given the option of writing letters home, then packed our sea bags and stored them in one of our "deuce and a halfs" in the tank deck. It was scratchy, but we were able to hear Kennedy's "stand-down" message.

I've heard that the Russian commanders in Cuba had lost communication with their leadership and were prepared to answer any U.S. invasion with nuclear warheads. I guess we will never know.

— Tom Smock, Dunkerton, Iowa

This article failed to mention the Army's Nike missile defense system. More than 200 sites, with approximately 100 soldiers at each, were our last defense from Soviet attack. During the crisis, aircraft flying within our airspace were ready to shoot down the enemy. Few if any stories about the Nike missile systems, and the soldiers stationed at the batteries, can be found. From the mid-1950s to the early 1970s, thousands served.

— Chuck Zellers, Lincoln, Neb.

'Mission Possible'

I was so encouraged by Ken Olsen's article (October). This is exactly what needs to be offered to veterans leaving the military who are struggling to find civilian work. Their talents are being wasted and their morale destroyed. I agree with Jake Wood that "we're sitting on a gold mine of energy and enthusiasm and talent." It troubled me, though, to read that Team Rubicon is struggling financially. This wonderful program should be publicized more, and the next president should be made aware of this job creator.

— Harold L. Holloway Jr., Perkasie, Pa.

Holder contempt citation

Rep. Jason Chaffetz presented his argument for the contempt citation well, but Rep. Emanuel Cleaver's opposing argument fell short in every way (Big Issues, October). He didn't even address the issue, saying that Holder should not be held in contempt because "it has never been done before." Then he implied that the citation should be dropped because the minority caucuses walked out on the vote. Holder repeatedly ignored, and then only grudgingly provided, a minimum of the documents requested by the House Oversight Committee.

Doesn't Cleaver want to know what happened, and the circumstances of Agent Terry's death? Why are documents still being withheld? Why do Holder and the Department of Justice continue to be uncooperative? Where is the accountability?

— John S. Hendon, Fresno, Calif.

Rep. Emanuel Cleaver refers to the black caucus, the Hispanic caucus, the Asian Pacific caucus and the progressive caucus. No wonder members of Congress have trouble getting anything done; they're tied up in caucus meetings.

— Gerald P. Gladue, Smithville, N.J.

B-52 'just getting better'

The article by Roger Meyer on the B-52 (Rapid Fire, October) brought back a flood of memories for me as a tail gunner with the 328th Bomb Squadron at Castle Air Force Base, Calif., in the late 1950s. Thank you.

— Joe Vitas, Linthicum Heights, Md.

I was a crew chief on a B-52H at Minot Air Force Base, Md., from 1964 to 1967. The first time I saw it, I wondered how in the world they got that plane in the air. As I got on flight status and flew on it, the B-52 amazed me even more — how when you took off and the navigator read the footage off and said "commented," the plane just came up off the runway. Thank you for bringing back fond memories.

— Robert Thomas, Davenport, Fla.

Editor's note: The November cover featured Navy Seabee Jeff Brantley making a pencil rubbing of the name of Marvin G. Shields at the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall in Bartlett, Tenn., in June 2011. Shields was the first Seabee to be awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroism during a 14-hour battle at Dong Xoai, Vietnam, on June 10, 1965. Photo by Mark Weber/The Commercial Appeal/ZUMA Press

**THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE WELCOMES YOUR OPINIONS**

Include your hometown and a daytime phone number for verification. All letters published are subject to editing.

Due to the volume of mail received, not every letter can be acknowledged.

The American Legion Magazine, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206

magazine@legion.org

"Treetop Majesty"

Inspired by the Internet Sensation!



Shown smaller than actual height of 10 inches



Hand-cast and hand-painted eaglets are fascinating from any angle

Meticulously Hand-Cast Sculpture Hand-Painted For Thrilling Lifelike Detail



Evokes the thrill of live "eagle cams" that have captivated millions



Five Sculpted Eagles, Intricate Sculpted Nest, Wood-tone Base, and Golden Name Plaque

Rare Views of the Eagles' High-rise Home

Once listed as endangered in all lower 48 states, the American Eagle has made a remarkable recovery. This dramatic turnaround has made eagles an internet sensation, with millions viewing them daily on popular "eagle cams." Now "Treetop Majesty" from the Bradford Exchange lets you explore an eagle family's lofty treetop home any time. The limited-edition sculpture is meticulously hand-cast and hand-painted for true-to-life detail. Don't miss this fascinating tribute to an enduring symbol of freedom and its timeless family values.

A Superb Value ... Satisfaction Guaranteed

Act now to reserve your limited edition at just \$59.99*, payable in three installments of \$19.99, the first due before shipment. There's no risk with our 365-day satisfaction guarantee. Send no money now, just return the Reservation Application now!

RESERVATION APPLICATION **SEND NO MONEY NOW**

**THE
BRADFORD EXCHANGE
COLLECTIBLES**

9345 Milwaukee Avenue • Niles, IL 60714-1393

YES. Please reserve the "Treetop Majesty" collectible for me as described in this announcement. Limit: one per order.

Please Respond Promptly

Mrs. Mr. Ms.

Name (Please Print Clearly)

Address

City

State

Zip

01-14218-001-E94992

*Plus a total of \$8.99 shipping and service. Limited-edition presentation restricted to 295 casting days. Please allow 2-4 weeks after initial payment for shipment. Sales subject to product availability and order acceptance.

The need for a growing membership

I recently had the opportunity to testify before a joint session of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs committees. In doing so, I learned what national commanders before me have learned, which is that it's common for one or more senators or representatives to praise the commander – either during the hearing or afterward – for his input. Those members of Congress appreciate hearing the Legion's System Worth Saving (SWS) reports, our suggestions for improvements to the GI Bill, and more.

It just makes sense for Congress to listen to us and value our opinion. The Legion is the largest organization of wartime veterans, representing patriotic Americans from all backgrounds and eras. We're a group capable of speaking on behalf of many. With millions of members, The American Legion is a force in Washington.

The same is true at the state level. When a Legionnaire phones his local state representative and announces that he's a member of The American Legion, he's not just one veteran. He's one veteran capable of rallying the support of hundreds, even thousands, of Legionnaires.

Clearly, a strong and diverse membership is essential to our success as an organization. It gives us more boots on the ground to lobby local representatives and provide help for recovering warriors in our communities. Membership makes our voice louder on Capitol Hill, and it gives us more influence in congressional circles.

Simply put, membership is our lifeblood. The hard work of our dedicated volunteers and employees makes efforts like SWS a success, but our membership numbers are what demand the attention of Congress and the White House.

That's why The American Legion has set a goal to reach an all-time high of 3.3 million members by 2019 – our centennial. What better way to celebrate the Legion's 100th anniversary than with a voice that is louder than it has ever been? Potential members are out there; an estimated 16 million veterans are eligible for Legion membership, but only 2.4 million are members.

The benefits of reaching this goal are twofold. We not only ensure our continued success as an organization, but we also enhance our ability to protect the interests of all veterans, servicemembers and their families. A strong and diverse membership helps us serve as a better and more vocal advocate on their behalf.

We must reach our membership goal. The stakes are high not only for our organization to continue thriving, but for the nation's military community as a whole. Veterans and their families cannot afford to lose The American Legion as their advocate.

Imagine a world where Congress doesn't hear about access problems at VA hospitals, doesn't receive testimony about the need to allow military training to count for certification in civilian trades, and doesn't have American Legion expertise to call upon for help improving the GI Bill. Such a world would fail our founders' vision. Most of all, it would fail veterans and their families, who need us now more than ever, in record numbers.



Chase Studios

National Commander
James E. Koutz

MEMORANDA

FOLLOW THE LEGION ON FACEBOOK

The American Legion has several Facebook pages for its various programs: Legion Riders, the national convention, Legion Baseball and others.

Go to the National Headquarters page to link up with the Legion's other Facebook pages.

[www.facebook.com/
americanlegionhq](http://www.facebook.com/americanlegionhq)

GUIDE TO HELP HOMELESS VETS

A new guide from The American Legion and the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans – "On-Call: A Handbook for Homeless Veterans and Service Providers" – has information and resources for veterans dealing with homelessness and for service providers looking for answers. For copies of the booklet, contact the Economic Division at **(202) 263-5771** or **economicdivision@legion.org**.

[www.legion.org/
publications](http://www.legion.org/publications)



"Awesome dress watch...I have received many compliments. Excellent quality."

- J. from Louisville, KY

**Limited to
5,000 pieces...
Order Today!**

Meisterzeit

Life in the Past Lane

A watch legend comes back in black! Wear the Midnight Meisterzeit for ONLY \$99!

Turn down the lights. Raise the curtain. Your wait is over. After 89 years, this classic is back on stage. And it's clear that the old black magic is as powerful as ever. This is what happens when "fashionably late" meets "right on time." Inspired by one of the world's first automatic wristwatches, we have painstakingly crafted the **Stauer Midnight Meisterzeit** to meet the demanding standards of vintage watch collectors. And for a limited time it's yours for under \$100!

Your new watch is history. That legendary original was a rare prototype, hand-built by a master of the mechanical arts. The idea that we could recreate it seemed as far-fetched as repainting Picasso. Until we realized it was possible to make our version even better. Its startling good looks get all the attention, but this watch is more than just tall, dark and handsome.

Why our "new antique" is better than the original. We found a way to engineer the **Midnight Meisterzeit** with a much higher level of precision. The 27-ruby-jewel movement utilizes an automatic self-winding mechanism inspired by the 1923 patent, but built on \$31 million in state-of-the-art Swiss machinery. Imagine putting a 21st-century performance engine into the body of a 1920s roadster. The **Midnight Meisterzeit** is powered

entirely by the movement of your body. It never needs batteries and never needs to be wound. It secures with a genuine black leather strap and is water-resistant to 3 ATMs.

Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed. Order the **Stauer Midnight Meisterzeit** and claim a piece of watchmaking history in a rare design priced to wear everyday. If you're not captivated with the **Midnight Meisterzeit**, simply return it within 30 days for a full refund of your purchase price. But we're convinced that once you experience life after **Midnight**, you'll find there's no reason to be afraid of the dark!

WATCH SPECS:

- 27-jeweled Vertex automatic movement
- Exhibition back
- Genuine black leather band fits wrists 7 1/4"-9

Another Stauer Exclusive Not In Stores

**Stauer Midnight Meisterzeit Timepiece—\$395
Now \$99 +S&P**

Call now to take advantage of this extremely limited offer.

1-800-721-0297

Promotional Code MMW201-01
Please mention this code when you call.



Stauer has a Better Business Bureau Rating of A+

14101 Southcross Drive W., Dept. MMW201-01
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337
www.stauer.com



The balance wheel and escapement can be seen under the Cotswold™ crystal and exhibition back.

Smart Luxuries—Surprising Prices

GOP plan to stop sequestration



SUPPORT

Rep. Allen West, R-Fla.

■ West is a member of the House Armed Services Committee.



OPPOSE

Rep. Chris Van Hollen, D-Md.

■ Van Hollen is ranking member of the House Budget Committee.

Catastrophic cuts are about to hit the U.S. military, jeopardizing the safety of all Americans. These automatic across-the-board cuts will substantially reduce funding for national defense and other essential domestic programs by as much as 10 percent, shrinking our military to a size not seen since World War II. During one of the most volatile and dangerous times in our country's history, this hit to defense is absolutely irresponsible and puts all Americans and their way of life at risk.

President Barack Obama's own defense secretary has referred to the pending sequestration as "not good policy" and says that "cuts of this magnitude done in an across-the-board fashion would be devastating to defense and nondefense programs."

House Republicans responsibly dealt with the looming threat, passing the Sequester Replacement Reconciliation Act of 2012. However, if the president opposes this bill and the Senate continues to not act, Republicans have said they are willing to work with him on alternatives. But we have yet to see even an inkling that he is working on a plan to protect America from the outcome of these cuts.

The National Security and Job Protection Act that I sponsored, which passed the House, requires the president to submit an alternative plan to replace the sequester and encourages the Senate to follow suit. House Republicans are willing to work across the aisle to create a solution that reduces lower-priority spending while protecting our troops, our national security, important domestic programs and our fragile economy.

The National Security and Job Protection Act shows the American people that their elected leaders are fully capable of working together to solve the problems facing our nation.

Every bipartisan group that has examined our deficit challenge has concluded that we should reduce the deficit through a mix of targeted cuts and additional revenue generated by closing tax breaks and loopholes that disproportionately benefit the wealthy. Both the president and House Democrats have presented deficit-reduction plans that adopt such a balanced framework. Unfortunately, House Republicans reject this

balanced approach. In fact, 98 percent of them have signed a pledge promising not to ask millionaires to contribute one more dollar to reduce the deficit or to pay for national defense.

Last month I proposed to replace the first year of the sequester with a balanced plan that included cuts to certain agriculture and oil subsidies and the elimination of certain tax breaks for millionaires. House GOP leaders refused to even hold a vote on that plan. Instead, they voted on the so-called National Security and Job Protection Act, which, despite its misleading name, did nothing to actually prevent the sequester.

The same thing happened when we negotiated the Budget Control Act. Because Republicans refused to adopt a balanced deficit-reduction plan, Congress established the draconian sequestration mechanism that would automatically cut defense and nondefense spending beginning in 2013.

Our Republican colleagues talk a lot about protecting defense spending; they just don't want to pay for it. We can replace the sequester as soon as they agree to consider the bipartisan balanced approach. So long as they continue to place a higher priority on protecting special-interest tax breaks than on national security, it is hard to move forward. The keys are in their hands.

THE HEART OF THE ISSUE

House Republicans and Democrats remain at a stalemate on how to end the budget sequester provision that will trigger devastating cuts in defense spending.

CONTACT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

The Honorable (name), U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510 • Phone: (202) 224-3121

The Honorable (name), U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515 • Phone: (202) 225-3121



USAA is proud to be the
Preferred Provider
of Insurance and Financial Services
to The American Legion



Use the card. Benefit The American Legion.

The American Legion USAA Rewards™ World MasterCard® is the only credit card that helps advance the mission of The American Legion. That's because USAA Bank contributes to The American Legion with every new credit card account opened and with each eligible purchase you make. At the same time, you can enjoy USAA Bank's competitive rates and legendary customer service.



Apply today.

1-877-699-2654 | usaa.com/legion

Insurance Banking Investments Retirement Advice



We know what it means to serve.®

USAA means United Services Automobile Association and its insurance, banking, investment and other companies.

Availability restrictions apply. Purchase of a bank product does not establish eligibility for, or membership in, USAA property and casualty insurance companies. Credit cards provided by USAA Savings Bank, Member FDIC. The American Legion receives financial support from USAA for this sponsorship. © 2012 USAA. 140763-1112



Media Bakery

Study explores possible link between household chemicals, heart problems

The chemical perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), used to make products such as food packaging, polishes and lubricants, is detectable in the blood of more than 98 percent of people in the United States – and HealthDay reports that it may be associated with heart problems and peripheral artery disease.

In a 1,200-person study conducted by West Virginia University's School of Public Health, participants with higher PFOA levels were more likely to have these health issues. "This association appeared to be independent of other disease risk factors such as age, sex, race/ethnicity, smoking, body mass index, diabetes, high blood pressure and cholesterol levels," according to HealthDay.

However, Dr. Anoop Shankar, who helped coordinate the study, cautions that a conclusive link has not been proven. It is not clear whether the study participants developed the higher PFOA levels or the health problems first.

Living Well is designed to provide general information. It is not intended to be, nor is it, medical advice. Readers should consult their physicians when they have health problems.

Don't suffer brain drain

BY MARK FUERST

No matter your age, it's important to lead a brain-healthy lifestyle to defer the onset of brain decline, dementia and Alzheimer's disease.

"Keeping your brain healthy and monitoring your memory for early detection of issues will help to maintain independence as long as possible," says Dr. Wes Ashford, creator of a memory screening test called MemTrax. "People who have had a traumatic brain injury or developed post-traumatic stress disorder, as have some veterans, are more likely to develop memory problems and get Alzheimer's disease."

Ashford outlines 10 tips for keeping your brain healthy:

Exercise your mind. Take a class, learn a new language, or work puzzles such as crosswords and Sudoku.

Get physical. Adopt an exercise program incorporating aerobics, strength training and stretching.

Eat right. Limit red meat and dairy while consuming plenty of leafy greens, fish and nuts. Ashford also recommends vitamin E, vitamin C and a multivitamin supplement with folate and no iron.



Media Bakery

Be social. Stay active with friends, get involved in the community and enjoy good conversation.

Watch your weight. Being in good shape physically helps you mentally.

Protect your noggin. Trauma to the head can be devastating to your memory. Protect your head by wearing a seat belt in the car and a helmet during any activity in which you could fall, such as skiing.

Love your heart. Maintain normal blood pressure – systolic pressure should be less than 130 mm of mercury and diastolic pressure less than 85mm. Watch your cholesterol and use statins if appropriate.

See your doctor. Physical health can affect cognitive health, so see your doctor regularly. If you have joint or muscle pains, ask about taking nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs. Keep your hormones stable, including your thyroid hormone levels.

Sleep tight. Try to limit your stress levels. Yoga or tai chi might help. If you have trouble falling asleep, consider taking melatonin at bedtime. If you snore, consult your doctor about sleep apnea.

Remember your memory. Have your memory screened regularly after you turn 60, or use an at-home memory screening test such as MemTrax. Consult a clinician immediately if you find yourself having difficulty with your memory.

Mark Fuerst is a Brooklyn-based health and medical writer.

As Seen
On TV!

Ease of use, peace of mind.

Veterans'
Discount
Available



Be able to bathe safely and worry-free **with a Premier Care in Bathing Walk-In Bath.**

Independence and security are only a phone call away. If you or a loved one struggle taking a bath, contact us at Premier Care in Bathing about our extensive range of walk-in baths.

- Enjoy a relaxing bath again without the fear of slipping or falling.
- The walk-in door feature allows easy access and exiting.
- **Hydrovescent** warm air jets soothe away your aches and pains.
- Our full service team can do most any install, and in most cases in just one-two days.

Yes! Please send me a FREE COLOR BROCHURE about Premier Care Walk-In Baths.

4988

Name _____



Proudly made
in the USA

Telephone () Email _____

(Required for Processing)

Address _____

City _____

State _____

ZIP _____



Financing by
GE Money

Send to: Premier Care in Bathing, 2330 South Nova Rd.,
South Daytona, Florida 32119



LIMITED
LIFETIME
Warranty

Premier Care
in Bathing™

Tested. Trusted. Recommended.

* Subject to warranty terms and conditions.

CALL NOW • TOLL FREE

1-888-803-4174
PROMO CODE 4988

www.GoToPremierBath.com

Lighter leftovers

Turn your turkey into healthy dishes

The magazine *Eating Well* offers several healthy and tasty recipes for all those Thanksgiving leftovers in the fridge, from turkey tostadas and wild rice turkey to turkey pie and turkey wraps. Here's just a taste of the magazine's post-Turkey Day recipes.

Cream of Turkey & Wild Rice Soup

1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
 2 cups sliced mushrooms (about 4 ounces)
 ¾ cup chopped celery
 ¾ cup chopped carrots
 ¼ cup chopped shallots
 ¼ cup all-purpose flour
 ¼ teaspoon salt
 ¼ teaspoon freshly ground pepper
 4 cups reduced-sodium chicken broth
 1 cup quick-cooking or instant wild rice
 3 cups shredded cooked turkey (12 ounces)
 ½ cup reduced-fat sour cream
 2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley

Preparation

Heat oil in a large saucepan over medium heat. Add mushrooms, celery, carrots and shallots and cook, stirring, until softened, about 5 minutes. Add flour, salt and pepper and cook, stirring, for 2 minutes more.

Add broth and bring to a boil, scraping up any browned bits. Add rice and reduce heat to a simmer. Cover and cook until the rice is tender, 5 to 7 minutes. Stir in turkey, sour cream and parsley and cook until heated through, about 2 minutes more.

Media Bakery



Media Bakery

Fifteen minutes

Even a small amount of exercise every day can have lasting health benefits.

BY MARK FUERST

Don't despair if you can't fit in the recommended 30 minutes of daily exercise. New evidence suggests that even half that time – just 15 minutes a day – can lengthen your life span.

Regular exercise strengthens muscles, reduces the risk of some diseases and promotes mental well-being. The more exercise, the better. But not everyone has the time or willpower. So researchers set out to find the minimum amount of physical activity needed to reap health benefits.

The findings, from a study published in *The Lancet*, suggest that just 15 minutes of moderate exercise a day – or 90 minutes a week – can cut the risk of death by 14 percent and extend life expectancy by three years compared to



Crispy Turkey Tostadas

1 14-ounce can petite diced tomatoes, preferably with jalapeños
1 medium onion, thinly sliced
3 cups shredded cooked turkey (12 ounces)
8 corn tortillas
Canola or olive oil cooking spray
1 avocado, pitted
¼ cup prepared salsa
2 tablespoons reduced-fat sour cream
2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro
1 cup shredded romaine lettuce
½ cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese

Preparation

Position racks in the upper and lower thirds of the oven; preheat to 375° F. Bring tomatoes and their juice to a boil in a medium saucepan over medium heat. Add onion and cook, stirring occasionally until the onion is soft and most of the liquid has evaporated, 15 to 20 minutes. Add turkey and cook until heated through, 1 to 2 minutes. Meanwhile, coat tortillas on both sides with cooking spray. Divide the tortillas between 2 large baking sheets. Bake, turning once, until crisped and lightly brown, about 10 minutes. Mash avocado in a bowl. Stir in salsa, sour cream and cilantro until combined. To assemble tostadas, spread each crisped tortilla with some of the avocado mixture. Top with the turkey mixture, lettuce and cheese.

Browse more recipes online:

 www.eatingwell.com

those who do not exercise. The researchers assessed the physical activity levels of more than 400,000 people participating in a medical screening program in Taiwan between 1996 and 2008, with an average follow-up of eight years. Based on the participants' reports of their weekly exercise, they were placed into one of five groups: inactive, low, medium, high or very high. Researchers calculated the risk of dying and the life expectancy of each group. Compared to those in the inactive group, the people in the low exercise group – who exercised for an average of about 15 minutes a day – had a 14 percent lower risk of death, a 10 percent lower risk of dying of cancer and, on average, a three-year-longer life expectancy. The inactive group had a 17 percent higher risk of death compared to those in the low exercise group.

Every additional 15 minutes of exercise a day beyond the initial 15 minutes further reduced the risk of death by 4 percent and of cancer death by 1 percent. Both men and women, and people of all ages – including those with heart-disease risk factors – benefited equally from

Home safety tips for the holidays

Parents magazine offers some helpful tips for keeping your home safe during the holidays.

- Inspect Christmas lights each year and discard any with frayed cords, cracked light holders or loose connections.
- Turn off your Christmas lights when you leave the house and before bedtime.
- If you choose a real Christmas tree, try to purchase one that's freshly cut, as they are more resistant to ignition. Always keep the tree watered and away from open candles.
- Use an outdoor timer to switch lights on and off, and also to avoid peak electricity-usage times.
- Never connect more than one extension cord together. Instead, use a single cord long enough to reach the outlet without stretching, but not so long that it can get easily tangled.
- When hanging outdoor lights, keep electrical connectors off the ground and away from metal rain gutters.
- Do not use your gas fireplace if the glass panel is removed, cracked or broken.
- Test your smoke alarms monthly.

Media Bakery

Read more holiday safety tips online:

 www.parents.com

15 minutes of physical activity a day. The bottom line: a small amount of physical activity is good, but more is better.

One key to fitting physical activity into your busy daily life is to turn things you like to do into fitness activities. For example, walk the dog, play catch with your grandchildren or work in your garden.

"The goal here is to disguise your exercise," says Barry Franklin, director of cardiac rehabilitation and exercise laboratories at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Mich. "We have, as a nation, overemphasized the value of structured exercise, and underemphasized the value of lifestyle physical activity as a way to get more fitness into our lives."

Several studies have shown that becoming more active can provide the same benefits – including improvements in heart-disease risk factors – as structured exercise programs.

"You can actually get as much benefit from daily activity as you can by going to a gym – maybe more," Franklin says.

Mark Fuerst is a Brooklyn-based health and medical writer.

Women veterans pour into VA system

BY TOM PHILPOTT

About 55 percent of women veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars are currently enrolled in the VA health-care system, a sign-up rate three times higher than the 17 percent for all generations of women veterans. Part of that higher rate can be traced to a law Congress passed a few years ago guaranteeing all Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, regardless of gender, eligibility for VA care for at least five years.

Dr. Patricia Hayes, chief consultant for women's health services for the Veterans Health Administration, says VA is committed to improving health services for a growing population of women veterans.

In 2008, an internal study documented for the first time the real hurdles and unfriendly culture that women veterans often faced in using VA health care. That is changing rapidly, Hayes says, thanks to improved staff training and cultural awareness programs, the hiring of more female health specialists, and the narrowing of a "gender gap" in offers of preventive health services and screenings.

Hayes and Dr. Sally Haskell, acting director for comprehensive women's health, concede that many challenges remain to reach full equality in access and services, particularly in VA community-based outpatient clinics (CBOCs). In 2008, only 33 percent of VA health-care facilities offered comprehensive primary care to women. Today, women can get full primary services at 90 percent of larger VA hospitals and medical centers, and at almost 75 percent of clinics, Haskell says.

But too many women who visit clinics must still be referred to larger hospitals, which can mean traveling "hours to get basic primary care for things like birth control, infections and getting their mammograms arranged," Hayes says. Response times for mammograms often exceed six months, a critical amount of time for a life-threatening condition such as breast cancer.

The number of women enrolled in VA health care more than doubled in a decade, hitting

337,000 in October 2011. While VA is still short of gynecologists and other female health specialists, it has closed much of the gender gap for primary care by improving the capabilities of current staff.

Many staff physicians, having cared primarily for men over many years, have tended to refer women to outside providers or larger VA hospitals. But since 2008, VA has given more than 1,500 primary care providers a 40-hour "mini-residency" program on women's health, including maternity care, birth control, abnormal bleeding and female mental-health care, including PTSD.

VA studies also confirmed a disparity in the number of preventive tests and screenings doctors ordered for men vs. women – to track cholesterol in patients with heart disease, for example, or to give blood tests and retinal exams to diabetics. Female patients less often received flu shots and other immunizations and were less likely

to be screened for depression.

Women veterans with service-connected conditions not related to their gender, such as musculoskeletal diseases, have faced difficulty obtaining proper care as well. The American Legion's System Worth Saving (SWS) Task Force surveyed women about their VA health-care experiences and found an alarming number of misdiagnoses of life-threatening conditions.

Verna Jones, director of the Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Division, says that VA has a long way to go in fully meeting the needs of women veterans. "VA has made improvements in its services for women, but more needs to be done," she says. "The SWS Task Force will visit 15 VA medical facilities, focusing on gender-specific and non-gender-specific treatment and care, to report improvements and where improvements need to be made."

Tom Philpott, a former Coast Guardsman, has written about veterans and military personnel issues for more than 30 years.



U.S. Army photo

Saluting America's Armed Forces

A TRIBUTE TO AMERICA'S SOLDIERS

Defending Freedom Forever

America's soldiers have sacrificed and served courageously in every major military conflict from the Revolutionary War and the Civil War, through both World Wars, Korea, Vietnam, and recently in Kuwait, Afghanistan and Iraq. Generation after generation of men and women have served our nation to ensure Freedom Forever for all our citizens. Often placing country before self, our soldiers have willingly sacrificed to defend the rights and liberties Americans cherish so deeply. A legendary general once stated, "Wars may be fought with weapons, but they are won by men."

Now, America Remembers proudly honors America's soldiers by introducing a Tribute to America's Soldiers, issued on a working semi-automatic Thompson submachine gun in caliber .45 ACP. This exciting new issue honors both the service of the American Soldier and their legendary partnership with one of the most remarkable infantry weapons of the last hundred years. Craftsmen commissioned specifically by America Remembers decorate each working Thompson in sparkling 24-karat gold and nickel. Don't miss the opportunity to own a genuine Thompson built in the United States by the gunsmiths of the Auto-Ordnance Corporation, the company founded by Brigadier General John T. Thompson himself.

Nothing else looked like the Thompson. Nothing else sounded like it. And Nothing ended a Firefight faster.

The American Soldier carried the Thompson into every theater of World War II, from North Africa to the D-Day landings and from the frozen forests of Europe to the island-hopping campaigns of the Pacific. They relied on the trusty Thompson during the Korean War and the Thompson proved itself once again in the unforgiving jungle combat of Vietnam. Together the American Soldier and the Thompson were unstoppable. Together they made history.

Once in a great while, a single firearm can change the face of war.

During World War I, heavy, tripod-mounted machine guns pinned infantrymen in their trenches. Because frontal assaults were suicide missions, stalemates lasted for weeks, sometimes months. Retired Army General John T. Thompson wanted to devise a way to give the fight back for the foot soldier. He designed a weapon that could be used as an automatic "trench-broom" to sweep enemy trenches.

By the time America entered World War II, the Thompson was a trusted ally for the infantry. Once called "The deadliest weapon pound for pound, ever devised by man", it was the perfect weapon for the American soldier, who often engaged the enemy face-to-face. The Thompson gave them a huge advantage in close combat fighting and helped turn the tide of countless firefights. Its portability proved crucial to the soldier poking through the bombed out streets of Europe or during the beach landings at Normandy. Anywhere America's dedicated troops saw action you could hear the roar of the Thompson.



▼ On the left side, you'll find two scenes that show the soldier and the Thompson in action. The first scene shows infantrymen landing on the beach during the D-Day invasion. Dodging a hail of bullets and artillery shells, soldiers dragged the Thompson through seawater and sand. Once they reached enemy positions, the last thing they needed was a misfire. The trusty Thompson rarely let them down. Also featured is an outline of the U.S.A. with the words, "Freedom Forever," and a banner reading "Country Before Self," both honoring the selfless contributions of America's Soldiers. At the center, a Soldier stands firing his Thompson.

▲ The right side features an illustration of a soldier taking aim with his Thompson and banners that read, "Saluting America's Soldiers" and, "Defending Freedom". The rest of the action on the right side of the receiver depicts scenes during WWII and the Korean and Vietnam Wars. In the North African campaign in WWII, soldiers wielded the Thompson alongside battle tanks during desert warfare. On the front lines in Korea, the soldiers distinguished themselves with the Thompson. Though the struggles and harsh conditions in Korea would push every soldier to the limit, the fighting spirit of America's soldiers carried on. In Vietnam, with helicopters in the background, soldiers relied on their Thompsons, often in the rice paddies and jungles. Though not as common in Vietnam, the Thompson was definitely welcomed by those on patrol or pinned down in a firefight.

Model: Thompson Semi-Automatic Submachine Gun 1927A-1 **Barrel Length:** 16 1/2" **Caliber:** .45 ACP

Honor the American Soldier With This Exclusive Offer — Only 500 Available

Only 500 Tributes will be issued in this exclusive limited edition. Whether you served yourself, or want to honor some special someone who did, now is your opportunity to remember the courageous American Soldier, who has protected America's freedom for more than 235 years. We will arrange delivery of your working semi-automatic firearm through a licensed firearms dealer of your choice. If you are not 100% satisfied, you may return your Tribute to us in original unfired condition for a complete and courteous refund. (Not available in CA or CT).

©AHL, Inc.

I wish to reserve _____ of the "Tribute to America's Soldiers," a working Thompson semi-automatic submachine gun, at the current issue price of \$2,995*. My deposit of \$195 per Tribute is enclosed. I wish to pay the balance at \$100 per month, no interest of carrying charges. Certificate of Authenticity included. Thirty day return privilege.

*All orders are subject to acceptance and credit verification prior to shipment. Shipping and handling will be added to each order. Virginia residents please add 5% sales tax.

My check is enclosed for \$_____.

Charge payment of \$_____ to:

VISA MasterCard AMEX Discover

No. _____ Exp. _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

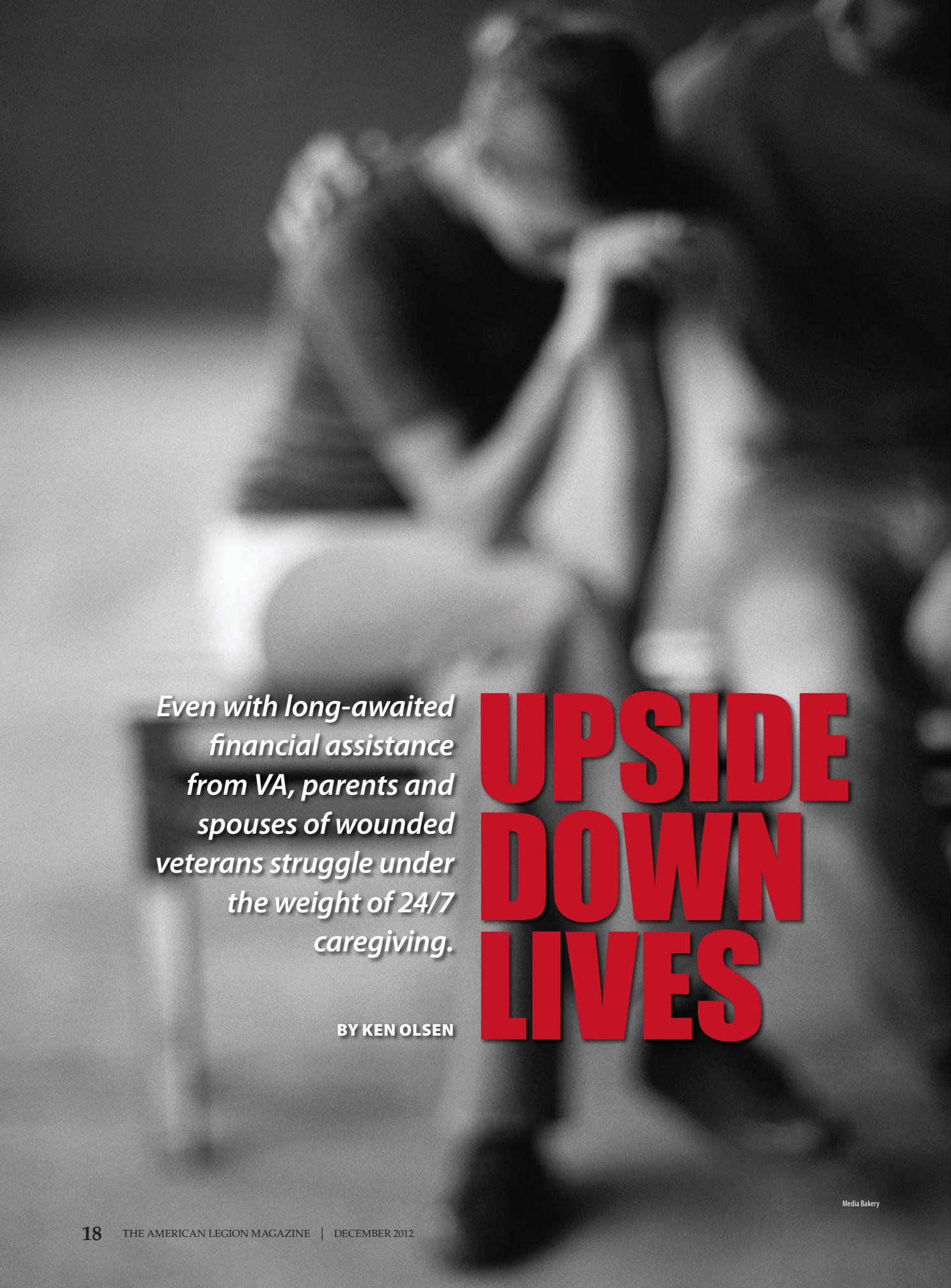
Daytime Telephone No. (_____) _____

America Remembers®

10226 Timber Ridge Drive ★ Ashland, Virginia 23005

www.americaremembers.com

To place your reservation call toll-free **1-800-682-2291**



*Even with long-awaited
financial assistance
from VA, parents and
spouses of wounded
veterans struggle under
the weight of 24/7
caregiving.*

BY KEN OLSEN

UPSIDE DOWN LIVES

Media Bakery

By the time Debbie Schulz got help, she had been her wounded son's full-time caregiver for more than six years. She had lost her husband, her teaching career and her retirement. She lay awake at night wondering how she was going to get health insurance.

"That blast changed the fabric of our family," Schulz says of the roadside bomb that inflicted a traumatic brain injury (TBI), partial paralysis and vision loss on 20-year-old Steven Schulz during his second tour with the Marines in Iraq. "It's that sort of constant having to rewrite your life and what you are doing."

Yet Schulz is fortunate among caregivers in some respects. Last year, she started receiving a stipend and health insurance under the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010, the first federal program to provide assistance directly to families caring for veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. "As everybody applies and settles into the program, we're realizing how much we needed it," Schulz says. "And we wonder how we ever got by without it."

Schulz and other caregivers also hope that the program, championed by The American Legion and other veterans service organizations, will evolve to meet the realities of caring for injured veterans. High on the list: compensation. Caregivers receive a stipend for a maximum 40-hour workweek – far short of the around-the-clock care many provide, particularly to veterans with brain injuries. "It's truly 24/7, even when they look fairly independent," Schulz says.

Respite care and counseling provided by the legislation are also inadequate and difficult for families to access. In addition, many caregivers of post-9/11 veterans have no idea the program is available.

"I'm still hearing from people who don't know about it," says Karen Francis, an Army wife and military family advocate. "I can't imagine it would be that hard to do phone outreach."

NEW REALITIES. Sarah Wade helped start the drive for caregiver relief in 2005, about a year after her husband, Ted, was blown out of the back of a Humvee in Iraq and suffered TBI, a broken leg and amputation of his right arm. Then-Sen. Hillary Clinton introduced the Heroes at Home Act in 2006, but the measure died.

Wade, military families and VSOs kept up the pressure, and the Senate went to work on a new bill, says Ian de Planque, the Legion's deputy

FOR GUARANTEED CHRISTMAS DELIVERY:
1-800-971-0985 • www.danburymint.com

She will always be your pride and joy...

My Daughter Forever

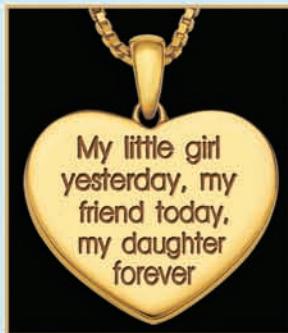
DIAMOND PENDANT

From the day she was born, she has been your treasure. Show your daughter just how dear she is to you with this breathtaking heart-shaped pendant, bathed in gleaming 24kt gold and set with glittering gems. She will cherish this graceful symbol of your love — especially when she reads the heartfelt inscription on the back: "My little girl yesterday, my friend today, my daughter forever."

Presenting...*My Daughter Forever Diamond Pendant*, available exclusively from the Danbury Mint.

Exquisitely crafted.

This stunning pendant features an exquisite pink rose and four brilliant green peridot "leaves." A dazzling diamond is nestled within the rose, just as your daughter is nestled forever in your heart. Hanging gently from an 18-inch chain, this pendant beautifully puts into words all that she means to you.



The back is beautifully engraved with a loving sentiment.

BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED...

My Daughter Forever DIAMOND PENDANT

*nestles within our signature presentation box.
Perfect for gift-giving and safekeeping,
it's yours at no additional charge.*

Pendant
shown
actual size.



A beautifully crafted 24kt gold-plated heart pendant featuring a shimmering rose and a dazzling diamond.

Your satisfaction is guaranteed.

The My Daughter Forever Diamond Pendant can be yours for the attractive price of \$99 plus \$7.50 shipping and service, payable in three monthly installments of \$35.50. This is a remarkable value for a pendant of such elegance, superb quality and sentimental value.

Your order is risk-free, because your satisfaction is completely guaranteed. If, for any reason, you are not thoroughly delighted with the pendant, you may return it within 90 days for replacement or refund.

Makes a great gift — order today!

Your pendant will arrive in a beautiful satin-lined presentation box at no additional charge. Take this opportunity to tell your daughter "I love you" like never before — don't delay, order today!

the Danbury Mint



My Daughter Forever

DIAMOND PENDANT

©MBI

The Danbury Mint
47 Richards Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06857

RESERVATION APPLICATION

Order promptly
for Christmas
delivery.

Yes! Reserve the My Daughter Forever Diamond Pendant as described in this announcement.

Signature _____

Orders subject to acceptance.

Name _____ Please print clearly.

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

FOR GUARANTEED CHRISTMAS DELIVERY: 1-800-971-0985 • www.danburymint.com

75170126C282

director of legislative affairs. But VA opposed caregiver legislation – the agency insisted its mission was to help veterans, not assist families – and the program was painfully slow to launch. The agency didn't start accepting applications until May 2011, a year after the act passed.

Despite this rocky start, the program is making a difference. “There’s a system in place, there are families who are getting benefits, and it’s doing what it’s supposed to be doing,” de Planque says.

The result, as Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., noted in a speech marking the anniversary of the act, is that veterans “are home with someone they love at a fraction of the cost of institutional care.”

Today, Schulz and Wade are among no fewer than 5,150 caregivers receiving stipends through the post-9/11 veterans caregiver program – 1,000 more than VA had anticipated enrolling by 2015. They receive, on average, between \$600 and \$2,200 a month, based on care needs and local wage rates for home health aides in their area. About 1,200 caregivers also receive health insurance through the program.

The burden on these parents, spouses and siblings is considerable. Many are exhausted, overwhelmed and face decades in roles they never prepared for. “It’s a drastic shift to go from coping with being apart to being together 24/7,” says Wade, whose husband served with the Army in Afghanistan and Iraq. “And it’s not like I was eased into that transition.”

Even families with professional caregiving or mental health treatment experience are surprised by the demands. Schulz was a psychiatric social worker for the state of Texas for nine years before becoming a special-education teacher in a Houston suburb. “Both of these careers prepared me for some of the realities of traumatic brain injury,” Schulz says, “but not the realities of becoming a caregiver.” Her son required help with tasks as simple as getting dressed and brushing his teeth. “It was step by step,” she says. “I was exhausted those first six years.”

Schulz took a temporary leave from her teaching job after her son was wounded in April 2005, thinking she’d go back to work the following fall. She extended her leave twice – once for six months and then for a year – before she realized that she would never be able to return to the classroom. “Dealing with Steven was a lot like dealing with my class,” she says. “I know I couldn’t do that during the day and come home at night and deal with Steven’s needs.”

In addition, Steven couldn’t be left by himself.

And Schulz didn’t have the resources to hire someone to help him, or the confidence that she could find someone who would take good care of her son. Then her husband died unexpectedly in March 2011.

Elements of Schulz’s dilemma are common to families helping injured veterans.

“People are really struggling with their role as caregivers,” says Joan Griffin, a researcher with the Minneapolis VA Health Care System and an associate professor of medicine at the University of Minnesota Medical School. She led a 2009 study of caregivers. “It’s incredibly hard.”

Post-9/11 caregivers deal with far different issues than those helping veterans from earlier conflicts, who are more likely to suffer from cancer or chronic diseases than combat-related injuries, Griffin says. Because they are helping Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, they are typically younger and face a lifetime of caregiving. They often take care of veterans with multiple injuries – such as TBI, amputations and other wounds – who might not have survived earlier wars. Because of their age, post-9/11 caregivers are unlikely to have peers also taking care of a veteran, leaving them isolated and invisible.

The strain goes both ways. “I think the level of stress is pretty great for veterans and caregivers,” Griffin says. “A lot of times with brain injuries, veterans can remember what they were like before the brain injury. The caregivers mourn who they’ve lost and the things they used to do, just as the veterans mourn who they used to be.”

“You are asking some very young people to take on something they never thought they would have to take on,” Francis adds. “You reach the point you want your own life too.”

LONELY ROAD. Count 32-year-old Lee Karcher among the frustrated. Her husband, Mark, came home from his third deployment with TBI, PTSD, and knee, back and shoulder injuries. He suffers from migraine headaches, a hernia, acid reflux, sleeplessness and depression. He has not been able to find a job since he was honorably discharged from the Army and returned to southern Oregon in September 2010.

“I sent him to war a whole, healthy strong man and they returned a broken shell of a man to me,” says Karcher, who cares for her husband and six children ages 6 to 13. “It can be a very lonely road. It’s like having another child – a disturbed child, on top of that.”

Negotiating the veterans benefits system has been



HAVE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU LOVE
BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH
**MESOTHELIOMA or
LUNG CANCER?**

Call **1-877-312-1856**

or visit www.simmonsfirm.com/AL
for a **FREE** consultation.

The Simmons firm has proudly helped thousands of individuals and families throughout the United States affected by asbestos-related cancers, including many of our nation's veterans. We have recovered millions of dollars on their behalf, affording them the medical care and security they deserve. Several of our attorneys, including founding partner John Simmons, are veterans themselves. If you have mesothelioma or lung cancer due to asbestos exposure, please contact us today for more information at **1-877-312-1856**.

We are committed to fighting mesothelioma and asbestos-related diseases both inside and outside the courtroom and have pledged over \$15 million to cancer research and the search for a cure.



Attorney Advertisement. Simmons Browder Gianaris Angelides & Barnerd LLC. One Court St., Alton, IL 62002. The choice of a lawyer is an important decision that should not be based solely upon ads. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome.



Lee Karcher's husband, Mark, returned from deployment with TBI, PTSD, depression and various injuries. On top of raising six children, Lee acts as Mark's caregiver. Photo by Scott Spiker

arduous and confusing. "We've been told something different at four different VAs," Karcher says. "Eventually you get to the right person, but we spend several hours a week chasing information."

Karcher learned about the caregiver program from Mark's VA psychiatrist. Lee, who was designated his official caregiver in August 2011, receives a monthly stipend of about \$1,200 – the equivalent of about \$8 an hour for a 40-hour work week. But that extra income cost the Karchers most of their food stamp benefits.

That's an unfair trade, she says. "It's like, 'Thanks for your service to our country. Now get out of here.'"

High co-pays also prevent Karcher, who has Crohn's disease, from using the health insurance she receives through the caregiver program. And she is too busy homeschooling children with special dietary needs, and getting her husband to medical appointments in four different cities, to take advantage of the caregiver respite or counseling programs.

Assuming the role of single parent, however, has been the hardest part of this upside-down life. "I need a second adult in the house to be an example, to be a disciplinarian, to give kisses and a hug, to be an extra set of hands," Karcher says. "To have that go downhill is, as a mother, really hard to

watch." Still, Karcher remains committed. "At times, things feel really bleak," she says. "But I am a faith-based person. I feel the angels have been there pulling my load. There are still times of peace and love."

This sort of resilience is typical among caregivers Griffin encounters in her research. "I am amazed by their spirit," she says. "I never finish (a caregiver) interview without thinking, 'I can't believe how they have persevered.' It's heartbreaking and heartwarming at the same time."

Griffin and her team surveyed 564 family members caring for veterans discharged from VA polytrauma treatment centers. The results are both encouraging and cautionary. Thirty percent of the caregivers said their veterans needed very little help. "That's a sign that rehabilitation works," she says. "My hopeful side is that a certain portion do get better and go on to lead functional lives."

Even so, 22 percent are completely consumed by their roles. Half of these "high-intensity caregivers" are providing care more than 80 hours a week, Griffin says. "That is a pretty vulnerable group that needs a lot of support." And their stress doesn't subside over time, as some might expect.

"The take-home message is that the consequences of war extend far beyond the veteran who has fought, to families and communities," Griffin says. "Those consequences will extend a long time, and families and communities are not well-prepared for what that takes. VA has a role in setting that up."

DIGNITY AND EQUALITY. Going forward, families and veterans advocates hope that VA's role will include revamping respite care and caregiver counseling. "Neither are easy to access or appropriately provided," Schulz says.

Indeed, Wade's options for respite care include leaving her husband at a VA hospital, nursing home or similar institution for up to 30 days a year. But he would be miserable in such a restrictive environment with an older population, she says. "I was adamant, because of our experiences, that respite care be age-appropriate for the veteran," Wade says of her work to help draft the legislation. "That isn't happening."

For the Wades, another option is using a home health agency of VA's choice. But Ted says he's uncomfortable having a stranger caring for him at home, and Sarah is leery of leaving him with someone not well-versed in his needs. "They typically aren't experienced with cognitive and neurobehavioral issues (such as TBI and PTSD) and they aren't trained to deal with mental health



Official United States legal tender...

Get all twenty-four Presidential Dollars from 2007-2012!

Each minted for 3 months, then never again...

The popular Statehood quarters have ended, and savvy collectors are now assembling the exciting Presidential dollar series, which began in 2007. Four presidents are honored per year in order of service, with each issue minted for 3 months, then never again!

Don't miss out – you'll own complete 4-coin year sets from the first 6 years of the series, including the popular Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln dollars. And each dollar will be in collector-preferred Uncirculated condition! The 2009-2012 coins display the motto IN GOD WE TRUST below the portrait, while the earlier 2007-2008 issues marked the first time circulating dollars displayed an edge inscription in over 200 years!

BIG SAVINGS and FREE GIFT!

Get your 24-coin set today for ONLY \$29.95 and **SAVE 61%** off the regular price of ~~\$76.95~~, plus Free Shipping. Order by deadline to get a **FREE** Uncirculated 2-coin set of 2010 P&D cents with first-year-of-issue Shield reverse!

You'll also receive our fully illustrated catalog, plus other fascinating selections from our Free Examination Coins-on-Approval Service, from which you may purchase any or none of the coins – return balance in 15 days – with option to cancel at any time.

Mail coupon today or order online at:
www.LittletonCoin.com/specials

SAVE 61%!



FREE Gift!

when you order by deadline



Uncirculated 2010 P&D Mint Lincoln Cents with the new Union Shield Reverse design!

SPECIAL SAVINGS!



Add a Custom Presidential Dollar Display Folder and **SAVE 28%** at \$2.50 each



45-Day Money Back Guarantee of Satisfaction

©2012 LCC, LLC

Special Offer for New Customers Only

YES! Please send me the 24-Coin Uncirculated Presidential Dollar Set of 2007-2012 **FREE** Uncirculated 2-Coin Set of 2010 P&D Lincoln Shield Cents (one per customer, please).

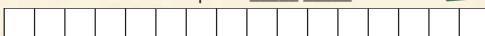
Order Deadline: 12:00 Midnight, December 31, 2012

Method of payment:

- Check payable to Littleton Coin Co.
- VISA MasterCard
- American Express Discover Network



Card No. Exp. Date /



Name _____ Please print your complete name and address clearly

Address _____ Apt# _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____

Total Cost @ \$29.95 per set: \$ _____

Add a Custom Presidential Dollar Display Folder and **SAVE 28%** at \$2.50 each (regularly \$3.49): \$ _____

Shipping & Handling: \$ **FREE!**

Total Amount: \$ _____

Please send
coupon to:



Dept. 2VY400

1309 Mt. Eustis Road

Littleton NH 03561-3737

America's Favorite Coin Source
TRUSTED SINCE 1945

CAREGIVER RESOURCES

Congress directed the Department of Veterans Affairs to establish a national caregiver support program when it passed the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010. The program offers a stipend and the possibility of health insurance for caregivers of post-9/11 veterans. It also includes training and support services for caregivers of all veterans, no matter when they served.

Go online to fill out an application for caregiver benefits or for answers to questions about the program:

www.caregiver.va.gov

VA Caregiver Support Line
1-855-260-3274

Other resources include:

- **American Veterans with Brain Injuries** offers weekly online chat groups for veterans and caregivers to share experiences, frustrations, fears and anything else. www.avbi.org
- **Her War, Her Voice** offers retreats for caregivers, raises money to provide counseling for military families, and works with a partner organization, Not Alone, to offer support groups for caregivers, warriors, veterans and military spouses. www.herwarhervoice.com
- **The National Alliance for Caregiving** trains and assists civilian and military caregivers. www.caregiving.org

issues," Wade says. "Polytrauma care can't be cookie-cutter. Each individual has unique issues that compound each other."

The fix is straightforward, caregivers say. Families should be able to hire an approved provider of their choice to stay with a veteran when they need the help. "I don't expect VA to be able to provide it all," Wade says. "Leverage community resources to provide the best and most appropriate care."

VA officials say they're open to making changes. "We're aware we have work to do in this arena," says Deborah Amdur, VA's chief consultant for care management and social work. "We are working with our community partners on alternatives." VA also hopes to introduce an alternative telephone support program to help caregivers who cannot access the current counseling options.

VA and caregivers, however, are still at odds over increasing caregiver stipends to recognize the 24/7 strain on families. VA says it will contract with home health agencies to supplement family

caregiving where it's deemed necessary for more than 40 hours a week, Amdur says. "We understand the significant burden many of these families are under and want to support them with supplemental care in the home as needed. We know the stipend does not replace employment. It is meant to be a recognition of sacrifices the family caregivers make."

For caregivers, however, this reinforces how poorly VA understands the situation. "We wrote this bill because home health agencies were either an inappropriate resource or limited as far as usefulness," Wade says. "Ted's doctor has said since 2005 that a home health agency is clinically inappropriate care. Shouldn't that be enough?"

Caregivers are also mystified by VA's willingness to spend huge sums of money on home health agencies instead of assistance appropriate for young veterans with a range of complex physical and cognitive injuries. "The idea isn't to simply put the veteran somewhere and keep them alive," Wade says. "If VA is willing to spend the money for Ted to be miserable with a home health agency or a group home and separate him from society, why would they not be willing to use that money to provide quality of life and further his independence as well?" she continues. "Our country owes it to Ted to treat him with dignity and equality."

Outside of VA, meanwhile, there is broad support for expanding the post-9/11 caregiver assistance program to families caring for veterans of all eras.

"I know that would be very costly," Schulz says. "But it sort of puts a rift between generations when one gets it and, for the others, it's 'Oh, no, you can't have it.'"

"I've fielded a lot of calls from people who say, 'I've taken care of my husband since Vietnam,'" de Planque adds. "I have a lot of sympathy for that. We hope to get that changed and are working toward that goal."

VA will present a report to Congress on the feasibility of expanding the program next spring, but there's no indication where that will lead. Despite the flaws in the caregivers act, families of post-9/11 veterans can't imagine being able to do this work without the assistance.

"Without the caregiver stipend and attached benefits," Schulz says, "I would probably be much like I was for the first six years – treading water, but never knowing what event may come along and sink me." ☰

Ken Olsen is a frequent contributor to The American Legion Magazine.

Ohio factory reborn; 250 new hires for EdenPURE® portable heaters

New models shipped direct from warehouse at up to 49% savings

Richard Karn, North Canton, Ohio

I was fortunate enough to attend the grand opening of the new EdenPURE® factory in North Canton, Ohio. The new plant brought hundreds of new jobs back to Ohio and reversed the common practice of sending Midwest manufacturing jobs to China. Now, EdenPURE® continues to ramp up production for the coming Winter with exciting new models and hundreds of new employees as this Made in America success story continues to grow.

With over 3 million portable heaters sold EdenPURE® is the best selling portable infrared heating system in North America. However, like any classic, EdenPURE® has dozens of would-be competitors who create Asian copies at low prices using cheap, foreign labor. Don't be fooled by these imitations. Look for the EdenPURE® logo and the Made in North Canton, Ohio stamp. Save like millions of others on your heating bills and say "NO" to cheap foreign imitators.

Now readers can save up to 49% (\$192 the largest savings ever on new EdenPURE®). EdenPURE® is not just the best-selling portable heating system in North America. As an EdenPURE® owner I rank EdenPURE® #1 for quality, safety and efficiency. And now is the perfect time to save like never before on our expanded 2013 EdenPURE® line made in our brand new North Canton, Ohio facility.

With two models EdenPURE® can meet all of your heating requirements 365 days a year.

Stay Comfortable 365 Days a Year

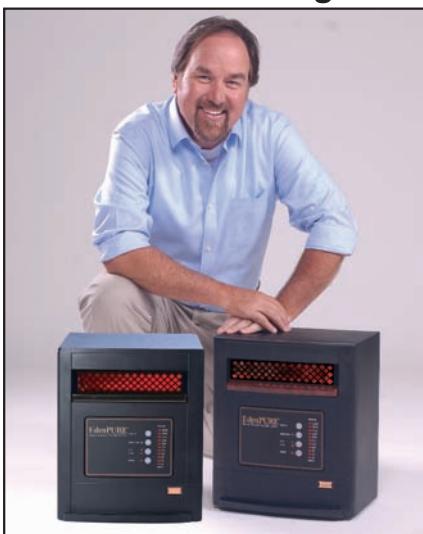
"Never be cold again" is the EdenPURE® promise. EdenPURE® provides you insurance against the cold all year long. Stay comfortable on those unseasonably chilly evenings no matter the season. I live in California but believe me it gets cold at night. Keep your expensive furnace turned down until it's absolutely necessary. And if we are fortunate enough to experience a mild winter as many did in the Midwest last year, you keep your furnace off all season and save even bigger.

New, More Efficient Models

The engineers at EdenPURE® listened to their millions of customers and somehow managed to improve the #1 portable heater in North America. Through old fashioned American ingenuity the new EdenPURE® line is more efficient to save you even more money.

The EdenPURE® Personal Heater now heats a larger area, an increase from 350 square feet to

Never be cold again



As Al Borland on Home Improvement I was the man with all the answers. However, as Richard Karn I still look for money saving and efficient heating in my home. I have an EdenPURE® Infrared Portable Heater in my California home and like millions of others found it to be a super-safe, reliable source of portable heat all year long.

500 square feet. That's a 30% increase in efficiency! And EdenPURE® is proud to introduce the 2013 Model 750. The new Model 750 is perfect for larger areas and heat up to 750 square feet. But the best thing about the Model 750 is the price. We priced the Model 750 at only \$50 above the Personal Heater. This means you receive a 33% increase in performance for only \$50. That's American engineering at its best!

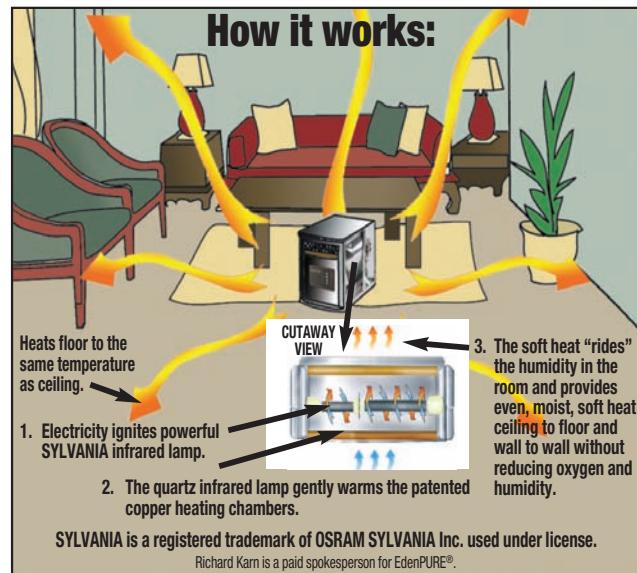
The EdenPURE® can cut your heating bills and pay for itself in a matter of weeks, and then start putting a great deal of extra money in your pocket after that.

Super Safe Infrared Heat

Now remember, a major cause of residential fires in the United States is carelessness and faulty portable heaters. The choice of fire and safety professionals like Captain Mike Hornby, the EdenPURE® has no exposed heating elements that can cause a fire. That's why grandparents and parents love the EdenPURE®.

The outside of the EdenPURE® only gets warm to the touch so that it will not burn children or pets. And your pet may be just like my dog who has reserved a favorite spot near the EdenPURE®. You see the EdenPURE® uses infrared heat. And just as pets enjoy basking in a beam of sunlight they try to stay close to EdenPURE®'s "bone-warming" infrared heat.

The Secret is in the Copper



SYLVANIA is a registered trademark of OSRAM SYLVANIA Inc. used under license.

Richard Karn is a paid spokesperson for EdenPURE®.

RICHARD KARN'S SAVINGS COUPON

The price of the EdenPURE® Model 750 Heater is \$449 plus \$27 shipping and the price of the Personal Heater is \$372 plus \$17 shipping, but, with this savings coupon you will receive a \$202 discount on the Model 750 and a \$175 discount on the Personal Heater with free shipping and be able to get the Model 750 delivered for only \$247 and the Personal Heater delivered for only \$197.

The Personal Heater has an optional remote control for only \$12. The Model 750 remote is included in the price.

Check below the number you want (limit 3 per customer)

Model 750 with remote, number _____ Personal Heater, number _____

Optional Personal Heater Remote \$12, number _____

• To order by phone, call TOLL FREE 1-800-315-1257 Offer Code EHS7158. Place your order by using your credit card. Operators are on duty Monday - Friday 6am - 3am, Saturday 7am - 12 Midnight and Sunday 7am - 11pm, EST.

• To order online, visit www.edenpure.com enter Offer Code EHS7158

• To order by mail, by check or credit card, fill out and mail in this coupon.

This product carries a 60-day satisfaction guarantee. If you are not totally satisfied return at our expense, and your purchase price will be refunded – no questions asked. There is also a three year warranty.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP CODE _____

Check below to get discount:

I am ordering within 10 days, therefore I get a \$202 discount plus Free shipping and my price is only \$247 for the Model 750 Heater.

I am ordering within 10 days, therefore I get a \$175 discount plus Free shipping and my price is only \$197 for the Personal Heater.

I am ordering past 10 days, therefore I pay full price for the Model 750 or Personal Heater plus shipping and handling.

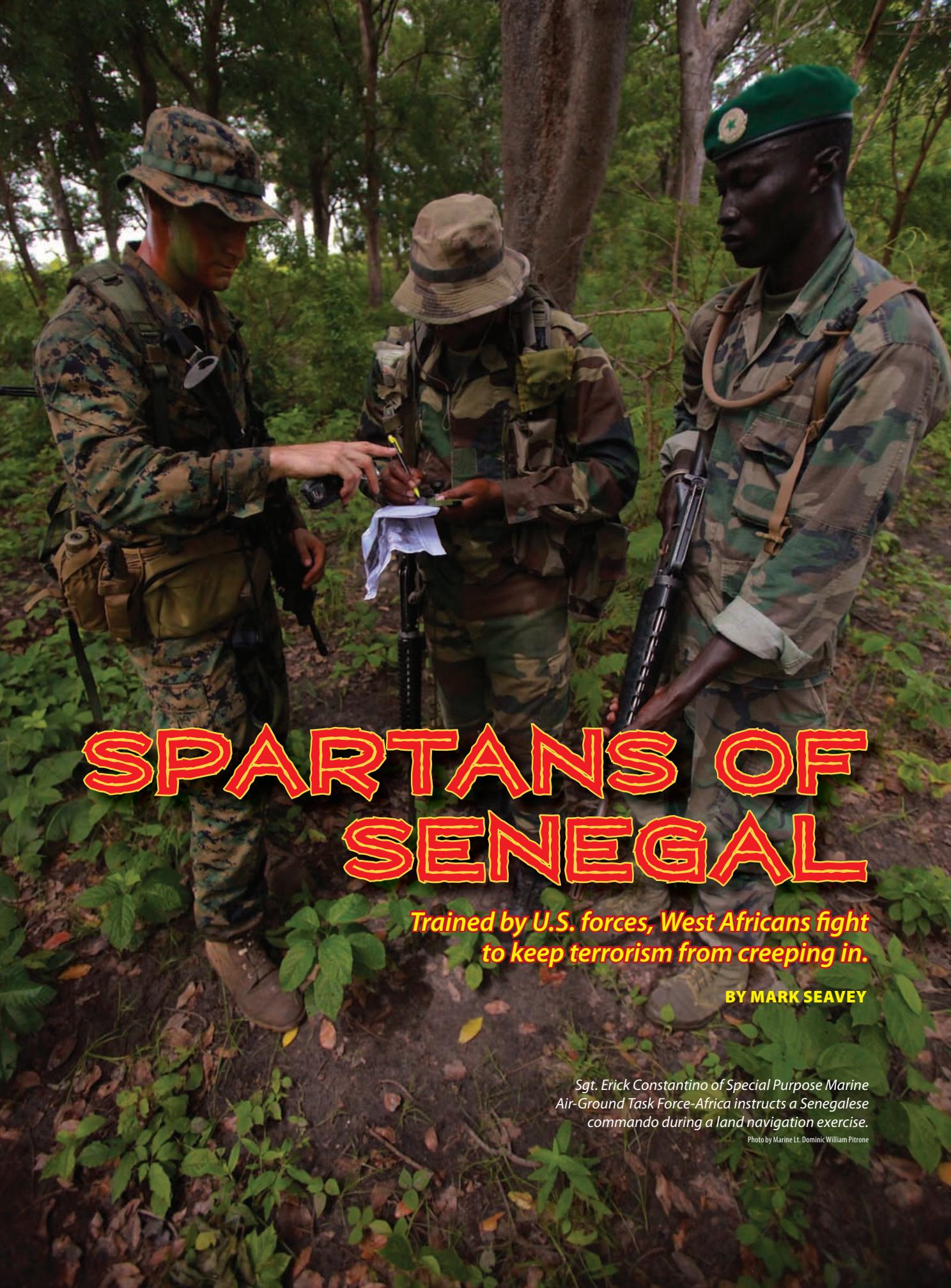
Enclosed is \$ _____ in: Check Money Order (Make check payable to EdenPURE®) or charge my: VISA MasterCard Am. Exp./Optima Discover/Novus

Account No. _____

Exp. Date _____ / _____

MAIL TO: EdenPURE® Offer Code EHS7158

7800 Whipple Ave. N.W., Canton, OH 44767



SPARTANS OF SENEGAL

*Trained by U.S. forces, West Africans fight
to keep terrorism from creeping in.*

BY MARK SEAVEY

Sgt. Erick Constantino of Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Africa instructs a Senegalese commando during a land navigation exercise.

Photo by Marine Lt. Dominic William Pitron

“Êtes vous fatigué!?”

Marine Corps Sgt. Robert Keane's French is far from perfect, but he knows how to indignantly bark to his men the question – “Are you tired!?” – as only a recon Marine can.

In unison, the Company Fusiliers Marine Commandos (COFUMACO), along with 14 Marines, four U.S. Navy sailors and two representatives of the West African nation of Togo, shout back in response, *“Jamais!”* (“Never!”)

Keane grins and asks the question twice more. Each time, the same hearty response: *“Jamais!”*

Members of COFUMACO grin back at the sergeant, knowing that pushups are next. It was a good morning on the rifle range, so what better way to celebrate than with physical training?

Once everyone has assumed the position, Keane looks around to make sure no one is slacking.

“En bas!” he commands. (“Down!”) Every man shouts out the cadence: *“Un, deux, trois ...”*

The men are still smiling. For each of the final five pushups, Keane shouts out, “We are ...”

And the Senegalese soldiers shout back in reply, “COFUMACO!”

Beacon of Freedom. This is Senegal. Like most nations bordering the Sahara Desert, its population is largely Muslim, but the government and culture here are more like Islamic countries of the Far East, such as Indonesia, than the violent, unstable regimes of the Middle East and North Africa.

The Senegalese, for example, are free to practice the faith of their choice in whatever manner they wish, with little or no social or political blowback. As my interpreter and tour guide, Chereif Ndiaye, told me, “It’s not all that unusual for a family to have some members be Muslim, others Catholic and even some animists. Occasionally some family members are ostracized, but it is incredibly rare and never leads to outright violence.”

Women have equal rights in Senegal under the law, but literacy rates suggest that the education system needs work. Fifty-one percent of Senegalese men are able to read and write, compared to 29 percent of women. The nation is making progress in this area of equal opportunity by appointing women to decision-making positions within the government and legal professions.

For its efforts, Senegal has been recognized as a developing liberal democracy and potential beacon of freedom in West Africa. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said in a speech in Dakar last July, “If anyone doubts whether democracy can flourish in African soil, let them come to Senegal.”

Last March, following a hard-fought presidential campaign only occasionally marred by protests and violence, Abdoulaye Wade was ousted by Macky Sall, the former leader of the Senegalese Congress. In a sign of how far Senegal has come, the loser called to congratulate the winner – a first in Senegal – and put out a statement: “On this day ... President Abdoulaye Wade ... wish(es incoming President Sall) good luck in his mission at the head of Senegal in the hopes that he will render the Senegalese happy. In this way, Senegal, through a transparent election, has once again proven that she remains a great democracy – a great country.”

“It was a great day for Senegal no matter who you voted for,” Ndiaye recalls. “It proves that Senegal’s national devotion to hospitality and friendship amongst all Senegalese was more than just empty words.”

U.S. Ambassador to Senegal Lewis Lukens agrees with Ndiaye’s assessment. “What is unique to Senegal (is that its military) does not play a role in politics the way it does elsewhere,” he says. “The army will not enter that arena. (It) only exists to protect the institutions.” A relatively calm presidential succession and the military’s absence from politics “enhances Senegal’s role as regional military experts.”

Senegal, however, has many of the same troubles faced by other African nations – a low-intensity civil war, for example. In the southern Casamance region, an ethnic group called the Jola wants to secede. This year, 20 Senegalese soldiers were killed fighting the insurgent Movement of Democratic Forces of Casamance. Restoring peace in that region is a top priority for Senegal, Sall says.

Soft Power. In his 1990 book “Bound to Lead: The Changing Nature of American Power,” Harvard University professor Joseph Nye Jr. advanced the concept of “soft power,” by which a country uses its ability to attract or co-opt, rather than coerce, use force or give money, as a means of persuasion.

“A country may obtain the outcomes it wants in world politics because other countries – admiring its values, emulating its example, aspiring to its level of prosperity and openness – want to follow it,” Nye wrote. “In this sense, it is also important to set the agenda and attract others in world politics, and not only to force them to change by threatening military force or economic sanctions. This soft power – getting others to want the outcomes that you want – co-opts people rather than coerces them.”

Decades ago, China made some early soft-power efforts to engage West Africa. Evidence is found across Dakar, including the Léopold Sédar Senghor Stadium, which can accommodate 60,000 soccer fans and is one of the largest structures in the city. Visitors ride on buses the Chinese brought in to provide cheap public transportation; they also built a large hospital in the city.

Even so, the Senegalese don't gush over their Asian benefactors, largely because China used only Chinese construction workers rather than locals, 50 percent of whom are unemployed. And while Senegal has long been a hub of textile manufacturing, the influx of cheap Chinese fabrics has forced many local producers out of business.

Clinton acknowledged that legacy last summer. "The days of having outsiders come and extract the wealth of Africa for themselves, leaving nothing or very little behind, should be over in the 21st century," she said, reiterating President Barack Obama's vow during a 2009 visit to Ghana that the United States would offer Africa "partnership, not patronage."

Lukens said that contrary to the way China handled its construction work in Senegal, the United States has hired 900 Senegalese to help build its new embassy in Dakar, and the project provides job training for workers and managers alike.

AFRICOM's Mission. In 2007, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates announced the creation of a unified U.S. military command for Africa that would seek "a more effective and integrated approach than the current arrangement of dividing Africa between Central Command (CENTCOM) and European Command (EUCOM)."

Steven Morrison, director of the Africa program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said such a command would create new opportunities for the United States, including greater competition with China, India and others for influence and access, and "rising commitments with respect to global health." And President George W. Bush said AFRICOM would "enhance our efforts to bring peace and security to the people of Africa and promote our common goals of development, health, education, democracy and economic growth."

Headquartered in Stuttgart, Germany, AFRICOM covers the entire continent except Egypt, which remains in CENTCOM's area of responsibility. AFRICOM itself has numerous components representing each of the service branches and Special



Maj. Tommy Waller, Ponchatoula, La.

The team leader in Senegal, Waller grew up dreaming of joining the Marine Corps. He says he "played Marine" for eight years as a JROTC cadet and NROTC midshipman in high school, and at Tulane University on an NROTC

scholarship. He became an infantry officer in 2002 and served as infantry platoon commander in Boat Company 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Command), then as weapons platoon commander and executive officer in Bravo Company 1st Battalion 6th Marines in Afghanistan in 2004 and Iraq in 2005. Waller also served as a reconnaissance platoon commander in 2nd Recon Battalion, deploying to al-Anbar province again in 2006. In 2007 and 2008, he taught at Officer Candidates School, where he was the first recipient of the Capt. Robert M. Secher Scholarship, attending the Wharton School of Business. In 2009, Waller left active duty and joined 3rd Force Recon Company as a Marine reservist while pursuing entrepreneurship in the civilian sector. He's married to his high school sweetheart, Rebecca, and has two sons, Oran and Trygg.

Operations forces, which are engaged in countering al-Qaida in and around the Horn of Africa. U.S. Marine Corps Forces Africa (MARFORAF) has units scattered across the continent.

When I asked who's doing good work that hasn't been well publicized, the answer was almost universal: Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force (SPMAGTF) Africa.

SPMAGTF-Africa is a composite unit of about 125 reserve Marines and sailors from 32 different units, "tailored to conduct multiple, simultaneous, small and widely dispersed security cooperation activities, yet retain the ability to quickly aggregate for a larger-scale crisis response."

The first rotation of SPMAGTF Marines conducted theater-security cooperation missions in Liberia, Djibouti, Burundi and Uganda. The current rotation has had teams of 15 or more Marines in Uganda, Burundi, Djibouti and Senegal.

Another team of Marines from SPMAGTF is aboard ship, helping train defense forces and participating in community service projects in Namibia, Senegal, South Africa, Mozambique, Tanzania, Liberia, Congo, Kenya and Ghana. Finally, several tactical contact teams of two or three Marines each work with partner-nation forces in Tanzania, Kenya, Tunisia, Uganda, Botswana and Liberia.

SPMAGTF-Africa is commanded by Lt. Col. Gerard Wynn of 3rd Force Reconnaissance Company out of Mobile, Ala., who arrived in Dakar to check on his troops about the time I got



The MOST DANGEROUS room in your home... the bathroom

According to The New York Times, the bathroom can be the most dangerous room in the home. Hundreds of thousands of falls and accidents happen each year.*

FACT: 1 in 3 adults 65+ fall each year, and falls are the leading cause of injury death as well as the most common cause of nonfatal injuries and hospital admissions for trauma.**

*BAKALAR, NICHOLAS. "Watch Your Step While Washing Up." New York Times 16, Aug. 2011, New York Edition ed., Section D sec.: D7. Web. **CDC - Center for Disease Control and Prevention



SAFETY NEVER FELT SO GOOD.™

A Safe Step Walk-In Tub will offer independence to those seeking a safe and easy way to bathe right in the convenience and comfort of your own home. Constructed and built right here in America for safety and durability from the ground up. Plus with more standard features than any other tub:

- Less than 4-inch step up***
- Built in 17-inch high seat for stability
- In-line Heater
- Ozone Sanitizer
- No-Strength Locking handle
- Gentle Jet™ System, 16 air streams and 10 water jets



Lifetime warranty on the tub and door seal
A Safe Step Walk-In Tub also offers life changing therapeutic relief from all kinds of aches and pains. Featuring carefully engineered dual hydro

massage and air bubble jets—both strategically placed to target sore muscles and joints in your legs and back.

These tubs are designed to easily fit your existing tub space without a full

remodel. Installation is included in the package and our installers are insured and certified in walk-in tub installation- all work is 100% guaranteed.

Offering the highest quality and service while maintaining a low affordable price, there just isn't a better walk-in tub on the market.

So take your first step towards feeling great and stay in the home you love.

***On uninstalled tub, actual height may vary based upon installation

**Call now toll-free
1-888-960-5495
for more information and
for our Senior Discounts.
Financing available with approved credit.**

SAFE STEP
WALK-IN TUB CO.
www.safestepstub.com



\$750 OFF
when you mention this ad
for a limited time only

Call Toll-Free 1-888-960-5495

SAFE STEP
WALK-IN TUB CO.

there last summer. Back home, Wynn works in law enforcement and is generally quiet, until you get him talking about the role of his unit and its mix of active-duty and reserve personnel.

"I have guys who back in the states are bar owners in New York City, a lawyer, one guy who is in medical school with an undergraduate degree from Harvard, a bunch of firemen and paramedics – just a host of guys who bring other skill sets with them from outside the military," Wynn says.

Wynn's team leader in Senegal, Maj. Tommy Waller of Louisiana, can top that. "I have a stuntman," he says, laughing. "He does stuff in the movies. If they ever need a replacement for the Dos Equis guy, this Marine could fit the bill as the most interesting man in the world."

Friendly and energetic, Waller is described by his men as a true believer. "He will do anything to further the mission of training our African partners," one Marine tells me. "He buys into the concept 100 percent, and the major doesn't rest if there is a chance to either improve the training or work more with the indigenous forces."

Waller's unit in Toubacouta, Senegal, has 15 Marines and four sailors, all selected for their own special skill sets. Three of the Marines are graduates of the prestigious Reconnaissance Course run by the Marine Corps School of Infantry special ops branch.

One of them is Keane, who, in addition to leading the Senegalese soldiers in their daily regimen of pushups, serves as my guide through COFUMACO training. At 26, he's exactly what one would expect in terms of physical abilities, and he's intellectual as well, with plans to attend Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University to study aeronautical engineering.



Sgt. Robert Keane, Pensacola, Fla.

When he first approached a Marine recruiter, Keane was assured that reconnaissance was perfect for him, and that he could serve his country and quickly get back to school. More than seven years later, Keane's still on active duty as one of

SPMAGTF's training NCOs. A graduate of Amphibious Reconnaissance School and Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (SERE) School, Keane is also a combatant dive supervisor and High Altitude Low Opening (HALO) certified jump master. Having served in South America, Iraq, Spain, Rwanda, Tanzania, Senegal and Italy, his No. 1 goal now is to return to the United States, finish a degree in aeronautical engineering and marry his fiancée, Amber.

"I didn't want to waste my parents' money, so I decided to pay for my schooling," Keane says. "I went down to the recruiter and signed up for recon. He said I'd do my training and come home ... that was seven years and three months ago."

Relationship Training. Supplies and equipment can be hard to come by for COFUMACO. On a day devoted to land navigation, map reading and terrain model training, Keane and another recon Marine, Sgt. Erick Constantino, ask the group to pull out their maps, protractors and compasses.

Among the 30 commandos, no one moves.

The Marines go about scrounging up some protractors and compasses. One makes photocopies of the only map available, but the scale gets messed up in the reproduction, making what had been 1,000 meters now 900.

Even without all the proper tools, the squad's navigator finds all three points marked on the map. The first movement is 590 meters, and using dead reckoning through the jungle terrain, the navigator stops 46 meters from the first objective. The unit silently passes information through hand and arm signals. The Senegalese assault through the objective, stopping at the target and taking up concealed locations around an orange panel that marks the spot.

"I was proud to see they remembered what they were taught two months ago and were able to execute a perfect land navigation with rudimentary tools at best," Keane says. "When you're using a low-quality photocopy of a map – which changes the scale, in 100 percent humidity, when the paper is falling apart – having the fortitude to not give up on it and do 'whatever it takes to accomplish the mission' (a recon motto) is a sign of the exemplary characteristics that these COFUMACO have demonstrated time and again in different circumstances."

The Marines and sailors in Toubacouta provide the African commandos with a full spectrum of military training, including marksmanship, land navigation and patrolling, and various riverine boat operations such as interdictions, personnel searches and hide setup.

As James Adams, sergeant major of SPMAGTF, said on the anniversary of 9/11 this year, "Our primary mission here is to train our African partners and bridge the gaps through personal relationships."

Marksmanship training is impressive. "These guys are sent into combat down in the Casamance with a basic combat load of less than 10 percent of what my Marines carry," Waller says. "They don't

Technology Simplified

WOW... A Computer Designed For YOU, Not Your Grandchildren!

...It's easy to read. It's easy to see.

It's even easier to understand and use! Just plug it in!!!

Have you ever said to yourself "I'd love to get a computer, if only I could figure out how to use it." Well, you're not alone. Computers were supposed to make our lives simpler, but they've gotten so complicated that they are not worth the trouble. With all of the "pointing and clicking" and "dragging and dropping" you're lucky if you can figure out where you are. Plus, you are constantly worrying about viruses, spam and freeze-ups. If this sounds familiar, we have great news for you. There is finally a computer that's designed for simplicity and ease of use. It's the WOW Computer, and it was designed with you in mind.

This computer is easy-to-use, worry-free and literally puts the world at your fingertips. From the moment you open the box, you'll

I just wanted to tell firstSTREET that I am having a great time on my WOW Computer. I am learning something new everyday. I am 79 years old and cannot believe that I am typing and sending e-mails to all my friends now. My daughter and granddaughter are so excited now that I have a computer. They use computers on their jobs everyday, but they cannot believe what you can do on this computer. It is wonderful... Thanks.

— Johnnie E., Ellijay, Ga



designed for SENIORS®

Big Bright Screen

One-touch "zoom" magnification

No bulky tower

...“surf” the internet

Get current weather & news.

...send and receive emails, and video chat

Keep up with family and friends.

...play games online

hundreds to choose from!



realize how different the WOW Computer is. The components are all connected; all you do is plug it into an outlet and your high-speed Internet connection. Then you'll see the screen. This is a completely new touch screen system, without the cluttered look of the normal computer screen. The "buttons" on the screen are easy to see and easy to understand. All you do is touch one of them, from the Web, Email, Calendar to Games— you name it... and a new screen opens up. It's so easy to use you

won't have to ask your children or grandchildren for help.

Until now the very people who could benefit most from E-mail, and the Internet are the ones that have had the hardest time accessing it. Now, thanks to the WOW Computer, countless older Americans are discovering the wonderful world of the Internet every day. Isn't it time you took part? Call now, and a patient, knowledgeable product expert will tell you how you can try it in your home for 30 days. If you

are not totally satisfied, simply return it within 30 days for a refund of the product purchase price. Call today.

The WOW! Computer

**Call now and
find out how to get
your own
WOW Computer!**

Please mention promotional
code 46053.

1-877-745-1422

firstSTREET
for Boomers and Beyond

1998 Ruffin Mill Road
Colonial Heights, VA 23834

have enough rounds to adequately train their troops, much less enough to give them the full basic complement of ammunition that my Marines generally get."

Even so, the COFUMACO commandos handle the range with little oversight. "The fact that they can call, shoot, coach and run their own firing line effectively is a sign of huge advancement in their training," Keane says. "The key for us is giving them the knowledge and motivation to pass down the training to other troops."

Several days are devoted to waterborne activities. Navy Chief Master-At-Arms Anwar Blakely leads classes on how to operate the Zodiac boats that the Senegalese forces use in the Casamance.

"We learned a lot of new techniques for shooting, patrolling, reconnaissance and riverine operations," COFUMACO Lt. Giallo Mountaga explains. "Down in the Casamance we do a lot of river patrolling to deny enemy movements, so the boat-operations classes are perhaps the most useful to us."

The New 300. The weeklong training is capped by a graduation ceremony, which begins with Waller displaying a map showing the locations of the U.S. embassy attacks in Libya and Egypt and other acts of violence across Africa in September.

Pins mark the locations, but most of West Africa is noticeably bare. Senegal and the countries surrounding it are clear. "It's up to you guys to keep it that way," Waller tells the commandos.

After presenting the Senegalese sharpshooters with awards and certificates, Waller gives two soldiers special tourniquets. "We gave these guys tourniquets, and they saved lives," he says. "That means we've helped not only COFUMACO, but saved lives doing it. That's how we will build relationships here."

Waller concludes his speech by asking the Senegalese if anyone is familiar with the story of the Spartans at Thermopylae. One hand shoots up. The commando summarizes the tale of the 300 Spartan warriors who fought at the pass in Thermopylae, Greece, in 480 B.C., to hold off the invading Persians long enough for the Hellenic states to mobilize to meet the threat.

Waller says that COFUMACO, like the Spartans, numbers 300, and they're tasked with stopping terrorism from creeping into West Africa. The graduates listen intently, nodding. Their motto is "*On nous tue, on ne nous déshonore pas*," which, roughly translated, means, "We can be killed but not dishonored."



Engineer 2nd Class Douglas Collins, Atlanta

An active-duty sailor from Atlanta attached to SPMAGTF, Collins is assigned to Riverine Squadron (RIVRON) 3 out of Naval Weapons Station Yorktown. The squadron's primary mission is to conduct stability operations, provide maritime security along rivers and other inland waterways and train military personnel of partner nations in riverine operations. Collins is a graduate of the Navy's Outboard Engine School. In Senegal, he taught the commandos of COFUMACO boat maintenance and tactics with the waterborne guard posts and interdictions. "We also show them how to do vessel board searches and seizures, formations, and land contact from boat while executing formations," Collins says. The overall goal is "to put effective rounds on target from the boats."

Lt. Col. Daniel Jones, the Army's military attaché for Senegal, would like to see such partnerships multiply across Africa. "While foremost in our mind is maintaining the strategic vision for the United States," he says, "we also want to reinforce success in the region by rewarding militaries like Senegal that support democracy, and steer clear of trying to impact the politics in the country or the broader region."

Earlier in my stay, while driving through Toubacouta – the town in which the Marines trained COFUMACO – Waller noticed that the Senegalese flag in front of the tribal chief's house is in poor condition. He asked two Marines to purchase a couple of new ones on their next trip to Dakar.

On my last day in Toubacouta, we go into town and deliver one flag to the village elder and the other to the prefect. The elder is responsible for most everything that happens in the town, resolving disputes and watching over the people. The prefect is a representative of the government in Dakar. Each of the men gratefully receives the flag.

The elder, whose son translates for us, asks if we could bow our heads while he prays for our safety.

The prefect is likewise moved. "We recognize that terrorism is moving this way across Africa," he says. "And so you noticing things like our flag, and coming here to meet with us with Marines, Senegalese gendarmerie, our Togo brothers and others, means a lot to us."

Waller responds with a nod. "We all want the same thing: to keep our families safe." ☰

Mark Seavey is editor of The American Legion's Burn Pit blog.



www.legion.org/burnpit

Limited
to the first
2500 respondents

The Beauty in the Beast

For almost a hundred years it lay dormant. Silently building strength. At 10,000 feet high, it was truly a sleeping giant, a vision of peaceful power. Until everything changed in one cataclysmic moment. On May 18, 1980, the once-slumbering beast awoke with violent force and revealed its greatest secret.

It was one of nature's most impressive displays of power. Mount St. Helens erupted, sending a column of ash and smoke 80,000 feet into the atmosphere. From that chaos, something beautiful emerged... our spectacular **Helenite Necklace**. Produced from the heated volcanic rock dust of Mount St. Helens, this brilliant green creation has captured the attention of jewelry designers worldwide. Today you can wear this 6½-carat stunner for the exclusive price of only \$129!

Your satisfaction is guaranteed. Our **Helenite Necklace** puts the gorgeous green stone center stage, with a faceted pear-cut set in gold-layered .925 sterling silver. The explosive origins of the stone are echoed in the flashes of light that radiate as the piece swings gracefully from its 18" gold-plated sterling silver chain. Today the volcano sits quiet, but this unique

piece of natural history continues to erupt with gorgeous green fire.

Your satisfaction is guaranteed. Bring home the Helenite Necklace and see for yourself. If you are not completely blown away by the rare beauty of this exceptional stone, simply return the necklace within 30 days for a full refund of your purchase price.



Add the 3-carat earrings!

Helenite Necklace (6 ½ ctw) — ~~\$249~~ **\$129**

Helenite Earrings (3 ctw) — ~~\$249~~ **\$129**

Helenite Set (necklace & earrings) — ~~\$498~~ **\$199** Save \$299

Call now to take advantage of this extremely limited offer.

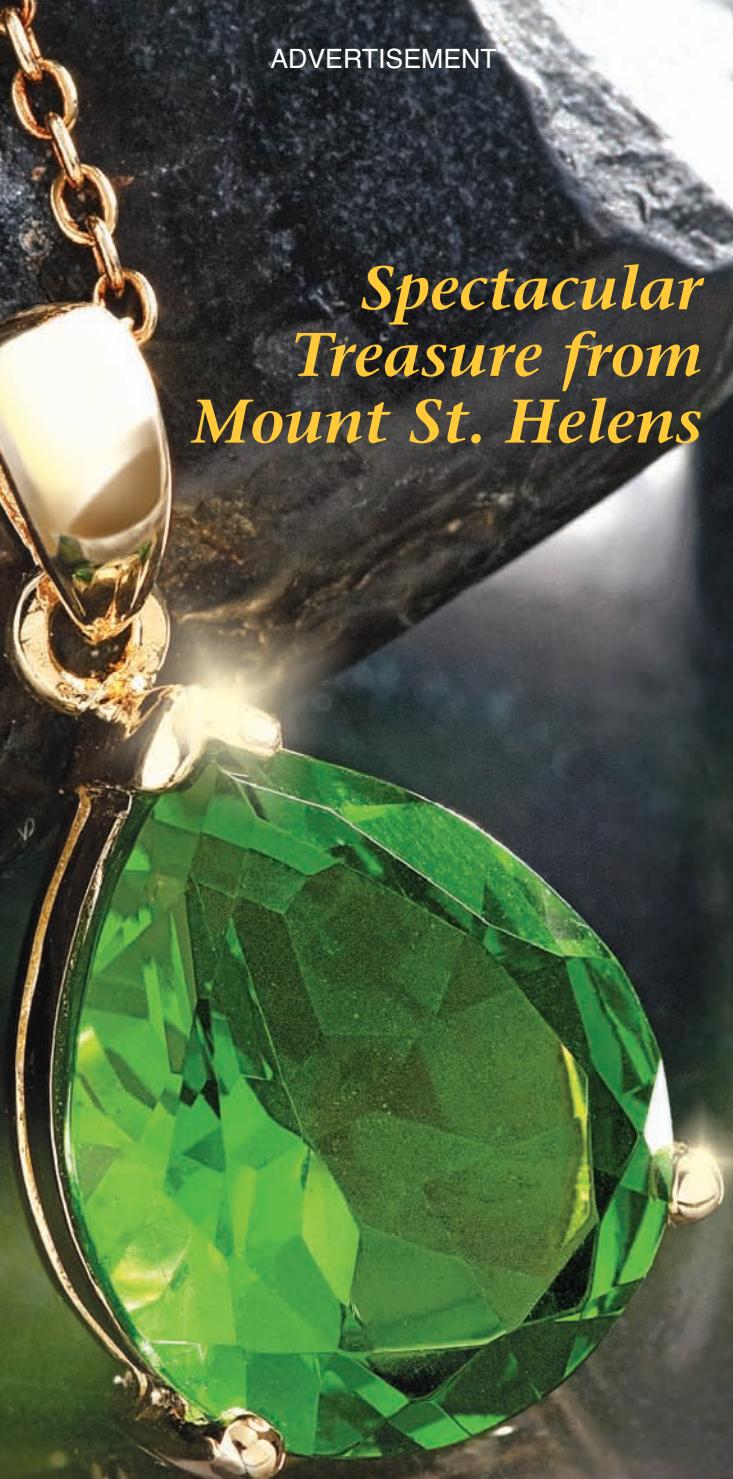
1-800-859-1979

Promotional Code HEL303-01

Please mention this code when you call.

Stauer® 14101 Southcross Drive W., Dept. HEL303-01,
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 www.stauer.com

Spectacular Treasure from Mount St. Helens



"When it comes to color and sparkle, this gorgeous green stone gives the world's finest emeralds a run for their money!"

— James Fent
Certified Gem Guru



Stauer has a
Better
Business
Bureau
Rating
of A+

JEWELRY SPECS:

- 6 ½ ctw Helenite in gold over sterling silver setting
- 18" gold-fused chain

Smart Luxuries—Surprising Prices

AFRICOM's 'light footprint'

BY BEN BARBER

Africa Command (AFRICOM) – just six years old, and the newest of the U.S. military's regional commands – finds itself in the midst of many small but complicated conflicts, from chasing the Lord's Resistance Army in the jungles near Congo to dealing with terrorist groups in the Sahara Desert.

Based at Stuttgart, Germany – partly because African states feared that hosting it would smack of colonialism – AFRICOM is charged with fostering positive military relations with 54 countries spread over a vast and underdeveloped continent. AFRICOM does not have its own troops; the command borrows them from the Army, Air Force, Marines, Special Operations and other Pentagon assets. Its first combat mission came in 2011, supporting the no-fly zone over Libya during the rebel ouster of Moammar Gadhafi.

AFRICOM has trained military personnel in dozens of countries, including landlocked Mali, nearly twice the size of Texas. But in March, a Mali soldier who received military education and training in the United States led a coup that toppled the democratic government of the West African nation. Such upheaval is what many Africans feared when AFRICOM was announced in 2007 – that it would give too much power and skill to soldiers in desperately poor countries with weak governments, inviting local armies to take over.

Those behind the coup were angry that they lacked the weapons and training to battle rebel Tuareg nomads and al-Qaida sympathizers who had fought for Gadhafi and came to Mali with stolen high-powered weapons. The rebels had seized northern Mali, set up training camps for groups linked to al-Qaida, and terrorized locals with amputations and floggings.

It's unfair to blame AFRICOM for the Mali crisis, which is widely considered to be a side effect of the Arab Spring. AFRICOM's commander, Army Gen. Carter Ham, rushed to deal with the fallout. In September, he visited Mauritania during a swing

through West Africa to prepare for an African-led military effort that would deal with northern Mali. In mid-October, no outside intervention had begun and the Islamists ruled northern Mali.

Ham told Congress earlier this year that he plans to keep AFRICOM headquartered in Stuttgart because, in Africa, "a light footprint is consistent with what we need." On Oct. 18, Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta announced that Ham would be succeeded by Gen. David Rodriguez.

AFRICOM lists its priorities as deterring or defeating al-Qaida and other violent extremist organizations, strengthening the defense capabilities of key African states, ensuring U.S. access to and through Africa in support of global requirements, helping protect Africans from mass atrocities and providing military support to humanitarian assistance efforts.

AFRICOM has 1,200 staff members at Stuttgart – mainly civilians – and several hundred intelligence officials providing additional support. Another





USAA is proud to be the
Preferred Provider
of Insurance and Financial Services
to The American Legion



My military service then still benefits my family today.

USAA Auto Insurance. Earned once. Cherished from generation to generation.
If you've honorably served, you have earned access to a level of service extended to a select few. Begin your legacy with USAA Auto Insurance. And discover a level of service that is so great, 95% of USAA members plan to remain with USAA for life.*

Begin your legacy. Get a quote.

1-877-699-2654 | usaa.com/legion

Insurance Banking Investments Retirement Advice

We know what it means to serve.®



USAA means United Services Automobile Association and its insurance, banking, investment and other companies.

*Based on 2010 Member Communications Trend Survey. Use of the term "member" does not convey any legal, ownership or eligibility rights for property and casualty insurance products. Ownership rights are limited to eligible policyholders of United Services Automobile Association. The term "honorably served" applies to officers and enlisted personnel who served on active duty, in the Selected Reserve or National Guard and have a discharge type of "Honorable." Eligibility may change based on factors such as marital status, rank or military status. Contact us to update your records. Adult children of USAA members are eligible to purchase auto or property insurance if their eligible parent purchases USAA auto or property insurance. Automobile insurance provided by United Services Automobile Association, USAA Casualty Insurance Company, USAA General Indemnity Company, Garrison Property and Casualty Insurance Company, USAA County Mutual Insurance Company, San Antonio, TX, and is available only to persons eligible for P&C group membership. Each company has sole financial responsibility for its own products. The American Legion receives financial support from USAA for this sponsorship. © 2012 USAA. 139071-0812



U.S. Marines and sailors lead Senegalese commandos in waterborne tactical training. Photo by Marine Lt. Dominic William Pitrone

unease about American training of African militaries because of that history.”

Though many African countries see U.S. military training as an opportunity to interact with a major world power and learn about modern warfare, Campbell believes the United States may have erred by not laying the groundwork for AFRICOM with “long-term public relations and information programs ... to win over elite opinion to the idea.”

He added, “In technical terms, the training is OK, but the question is what the training will be used for. Many Africans are afraid that training will be used to repress opposition groups.”

Nevertheless, AFRICOM can claim some success. It helped pacify Libya before a militia led a raid that killed U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens and three aides in September. AFRICOM had 16 troops there, but the State Department ruled they were not needed and sent them home in August.

AFRICOM’s other activities include air and land combat training with Moroccan troops, maritime interdiction exercises in Nigeria, and counterterrorism training for small units of partner nations in North and West Africa.

Michael O’Hanlon, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, describes himself as a fan of AFRICOM but says he is unsure about its future.

“AFRICOM couldn’t find a home on the continent” because President Bush announced it rather suddenly, and he “was seen as a president who used force more than many countries would have wished,” O’Hanlon says. “The new command aimed to serve partnership rather than action. But conspiracy theories about AFRICOM had legs and limited the number of troops on the continent.”

Nevertheless, Ham believes that AFRICOM has made valuable inroads, saying that he’s been encouraged by African leaders’ willingness to confront challenges and embrace opportunities.

“I sincerely believe that, in the long run, it is Africans who are best able to address African security challenges,” Ham told the Senate Armed Forces Committee in March. “Because of this and because a safe, secure and stable Africa is in the United States’ national interest, we at U.S. Africa Command will continue to strive to be the security partner of choice on the continent.”

Ben Barber has been a journalist for more than 30 years. His book, “GROUNDTRUTH: At Work, Play and War in the Third World,” will be published by de.MO in 2013.

2,000 U.S. troops and civilians are part of the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA) at Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti. The U.S. military also has access to military bases in 12 other African countries, according to the Congressional Research Service (CRS).

AFRICOM requested \$295 million in funding for 2012, with CJTF-HOA receiving separate funding of \$318 million. This year, some \$46 million of AFRICOM’s budget went to Operation Enduring Freedom-Trans Sahara, a counterterrorism effort sure to see more activity after the Islamist seizure of northern Mali and other threats in the poor and weakly governed region.

In July 2010, the Government Accountability Office released a report critical of AFRICOM, stating that the command needs more cultural training and greater long-term planning to assure that it does not make mistakes in the charged environment of the world’s poorest continent. This is crucial, since AFRICOM has inherited an array of missions including HIV awareness, humanitarian operations delivering food and water, piracy interdiction and other “soft-power” tasks.

“We want to help develop a stable environment in which civil society can be built and that the quality of life for the citizenry can be improved,” a DoD official said in a 2011 CRS report. Yet the highly unequal budgets of DoD, the State Department and USAID make it difficult for them to act as equal partners and could lead to the “militarization of development and diplomacy.”

John Campbell – former U.S. ambassador to Nigeria and senior fellow for Africa policy studies at the Council of Foreign Relations – has long been concerned about potential problems created by the emergence of AFRICOM.

“There are examples of U.S. training of African military types who later staged coups (in places such as) Niger, Rwanda,” Campbell said. “In some circles in Africa – democratic circles – there is



THE CONTENDER

How competitive shooting at an American Legion post gave a teenager the confidence to achieve his dreams.

BY GERRY SOUTER

I made my way through grammar school on Chicago's South Side. I had no marketable skills. I couldn't throw a football spiral, hit a baseball or catch one. On skates of any kind, I was a disaster, and my bicycle-riding prowess threatened to change my voice from alto to tenor every time I braked and made intimate contact with my Schwinn's center bar. I was short, my mom bought my clothes in the husky department at Sears, and I wore glasses. In effect, as an American boy, I was a failure.



Photo by Eldon Lindsay

But there was one thing I discovered while lying on a crusty old mattress in a damp crawl space under a friend's house: I could shoot the center out of a target at 50 feet consistently enough to earn my Boy Scout Marksmanship merit badge. Now, what do you do with a skill like that? I had only one choice. I joined the South Shore High School ROTC and tried out for the battalion rifle team.

My sports history had taught me that close-order drill, learning the nomenclature of an M1 rifle and taking orders from squeaky-voiced lieutenants were preferable to climbing a rope, becoming a dodgeball casualty or collecting damp towels in a hamper after swim class.

Sadly, my tryout for the rifle team followed my established pattern. The Army 1922 Springfield rifle defeated everything I had learned while wielding a simpler, lighter, basic Stevens .22 in that smelly crawl space. The Army sergeant in charge of the tryouts suggested I stick to learning to field-strip rifles and leave the shooting to those more qualified. That just about did it for me. I had nothing. I was a wildebeest in lion country.

Gavin Scobie, a kid I knew who ran with a different gang a few blocks from my patch, witnessed my red-faced, teary defeat at the ROTC range. He asked me if I still wanted to learn to shoot. I thought I knew how, but evidence to the contrary had left me with a hot face, a dry mouth and a crushed spirit. He offered to take me to where he did his shooting every Friday night. I just nodded.

American Legion Post 175 at 75th Street and Coles Avenue lit up its piece of the street with welcoming neon and blazing lights above a glass door. A meeting hall and neighborhood bar, it was always filled with World War II and Korean War veterans. Gavin led me past the door to a path alongside the building that went into the deep and silent dark. I feared the dark. Nothing good ever happened to me where it was dark. I followed him to stairs that led down to a basement door lit by a single 40-watt bulb. Muffled sounds came from

behind the door: Krung! Krung! Krung! Gavin pushed through the door, and I stepped into the rest of my life.

The "Krung!" became "Krang!" as rifle shots banged behind a wood curtain between the club room and the actual five-position rifle range. The room smelled of Hoppe's No. 9 powder solvent, gun oil, leather pads on shooting coats hanging from pegs, and the suffusing scent that once sniffed is never forgotten: smokeless gunpowder. At a table, a blonde girl wearing an Al Freeland 10-X padded shooting coat covered with rifle match brassards looked up at me, smiled and went back to loading .22 Winchester match bullets into a drilled wood shooting block. Shooters trooped from the range back into the club room, carrying their personal heavy-barrel match rifles to the long rack above a scoring table. The last man through the door, filling it as he passed, paused and looked at me. He was the oldest man in the room and looked like he must have hash marks running up both sleeves.

"Doc," said Gavin, "this is a new recruit who wants to shoot. Gerry, this is Doc Meissner, the range boss."

Dr. Arthur Meissner, ophthalmologist and Camp Perry veteran, stood about 6 feet tall, with a balding head sparsely thatched with finger-combed strands of brownish hair. His eyes were deep-set. They missed nothing behind thick spectacles. He carried a scuffed Bausch & Lomb spotting scope in one hand and scoring sheets in the other. Doc examined me without enthusiasm.

"Can you shoot?" he piped in a voice shaped by command and eroded by whiskey.

I had brought my Boy Scout merit badge sash and unfolded it to show the Marksmanship award. He squinted at the olive fabric spotted with colorful merit doodads. Sliding a chew of tobacco around the inside of his mouth, Doc looked from badge to badge.

"I see you can burn oatmeal over an open fire, you know how t' find the Big Dipper and you



After failing to make his high school ROTC's battalion rifle team, Souter (standing, second from left) honed his shooting skills at American Legion Post 175 in Chicago. He eventually became the ROTC team's co-captain.

Photo courtesy Gerry Souter

Just Released: The New Australian Gold Rush is Here!

**\$69.50!
LOW AS
plus s/h**

The Solid Gold Secret behind this Outback Opportunity

There's no doubt about it. Everybody is on the hunt for gold these days! Smart buyers have discovered that Australia's Gold Kangaroo is one of the world's most affordable ways to own collector gold coins. Insiders realize that these stunning coins offer a solid gold triple play:

#1: 99.99% Pure Gold

24K gold is 99.9% pure, but these Gold Kangaroos are struck in one half gram of 99.99% pure gold – earning them a spot among the purest gold anywhere in the world. In fact, *they are purer than any U.S. gold coin ever issued before 2006!* Minted by Australia's award-winning Perth Mint, they feature Australia's beloved national symbol, the "Joey" Kangaroo.

#2: Legal Tender Gold

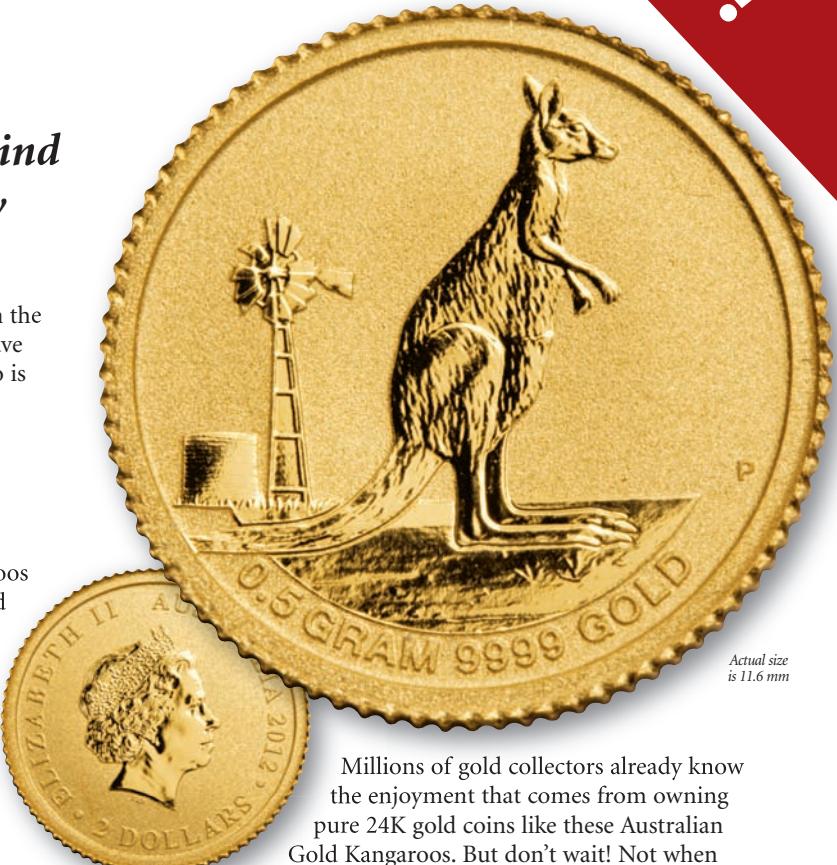
Legal tender gold coins are the preferred choice of millions. Unlike privately-minted gold bars or ingots, legal tender gold coins offer the security of government guaranteed purity, weight, and authenticity. The purity and weight are actually struck directly into the surface of the coin, as well as the renowned "P" mint mark of Perth Mint. And because the Gold Kangaroo coin series also features a one-year-only design, they are also in demand as a collectible coin.

#3: Save Over \$48.00!

New York Mint is an authorized distributor for this hugely-popular 2012 Gold Kangaroo coin, allowing us to bring them to you at a great price. When gold coins of similar size are offered elsewhere, you can pay up to \$118 each. But today you can secure your 2012 Gold Kangaroo for as little as \$69.50. That's a savings of more than \$48.00!

Order now—Risk Free!

Best of all, you can own your 2012 Gold Kangaroos risk free, with our 30-day unconditional-return privilege. If you're not satisfied, return your coins within 30 days for a full refund (less s/h).



Millions of gold collectors already know the enjoyment that comes from owning pure 24K gold coins like these Australian Gold Kangaroos. But don't wait! Not when you can pocket your own affordable Gold Kangaroos and save a bundle today!

Buy More and Save More

At these low prices Gold Kangaroo buyers will want to purchase more than one coin. So as a bonus, if you buy banker's rolls of 20 coins, you can save \$100 or more!

One Gold Kangaroo coin for only \$74.50 + s/h

Five for only \$73.50 ea. + s/h **SAVE \$5**

Ten for only \$72.50 ea. + s/h **SAVE \$20**

Twenty or more for only \$69.50 ea. + s/h **SAVE \$100 or more!**

**Toll-Free 24 hours a day
1-888-201-7144**

Offer Code GKD185-02
Please mention this code when you call.



New York Mint

14101 Southcross Drive W., Dept. GKD185-02
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337

www.NewYorkMint.com/kangaroo

know a hammer from a screwdriver." He looked closer at my merit badges. "The one with the concentric circles – that mean you know one end of a rifle from the other?"

"Yessir," I answered, fighting the urge to salute. "Never made officer," Doc said. "Mustered out as a top kick." He turned, surveyed the rifle rack and selected – *groan* – a Springfield .22. "C'mon, let's see if you can put a few down range without hurting anybody."

Of all the rifles made by all the gun manufacturers in the world, why did he have to pick that one? My stomach started its familiar churn as I followed him to an open shooting mat. He squatted down on a little stool next to me as I fitted the prone sling loop over my left bicep and sank to my knees. He put a loaded shooting block of .22 long rifle standard-velocity ammunition in front of my right elbow.

"Let's dry-fire for a while first," he said. I slid the bolt closed. The front sight was a circle into which I maneuvered the round black target 50 feet distant, and then centered that picture in the rear sight aperture. This was more precise than the ROTC post front sight. I squeezed and the trigger broke clean, snapping the firing pin against the rim of the empty breech. When the sight settled back, the target had slid to the right. I moved my left elbow to the left a fraction, worked the bolt, held my breath and squeezed again. After the click, the target remained at dead center in the concentric sight circles. His voice was still flat as he got up – with some effort – off his stool and took the spotting scope to the table at the back of the dark range.

"Give me five on target No. 3." Surveying the firing line, he added, "Fire when ready."

I began shooting and he began suggesting small tweaks to my style and technique. An hour later, I was shooting the center out of every target. At last, for once in my life, I was a contender.

The American Legion team was a melting pot of young people coming from a cross section of South Side homes. Gavin came from a blue-collar family and competed with an unusual Al Freeland BSA Martini target rifle. At 17, Jim Preston was the oldest, and had a custom hot rod built from a 1949 Oldsmobile "bubble" coupe with a V8 sporting dual 4-barrel carbs under the hood. He could afford a beautiful Anschutz heavy barrel .22.

Our most celebrated shooter was Diane Guest with her Winchester Model 75. She elevated everybody's effort and attitude. She and I still correspond today, and she wrote to me, "I was

15 when American Legion Post 175 gave me the opportunity to join its rifle club. Both my brothers were members, and Doc taught me the proper handling of a firearm. I practiced and worked my way up the ladder of junior awards and eventually achieved the highest rating of distinguished rifleman. Post 175 was behind me all the way. I believe the men respected me. They knew they had a competitor on their hands and started to call me 'Annie Oakley.'

The Legion members were impressed enough with our skills that they gave us two M1 Garand rifles from the Civilian Marksmanship program and turned us loose on the military matches at Great Lakes Naval Training Station and Fort Sheridan. Doc Meissner spent many hours with us at the Fox Valley Rifle Range in Algonquin, Ill., and we made our debut at Fort Sheridan. We did not look impressive next to the crusty Camp Perry veterans with their jaunty campaign hats and '03 Springfields slung over their shoulders.

During the match, they drifted down to see how we kids were doing. Spectators got a kick when Donna, the other girl on our team, fired the nine-shot rapid prone – all 4 feet 9 inches of her – and the repeated recoil of the big M1 pushed her back a foot and a half behind the firing line. Then they saw that the center of her target had been shot out at 200 yards. As the day went on, our names crept up the scoreboard. Doc couldn't stop grinning.

I tried out again for the ROTC rifle team. I made it and went on to become co-captain, earning my Rifle Marksmanship letter in my senior year at the South Shore Letterman's Award program. My dad came to the ceremony, and that was the first time he ever applauded me.

In that final year of high school, I was an ROTC company commander of 60 cadets, my grades had shot up, I had a steady girlfriend and was living large. My "expert" rating with the M1 Garand, plus an NRA instructor certificate, got me detached to help National Guard troops in a local logistical battalion earn their required marksmanship qualifications. I was also accepted to the bachelor's program at the School of the Chicago Art Institute and the University of Chicago. Four years later, I graduated with honors in photography.

A Tradition Worth Keeping. Following decades of adventure as an international photojournalist, documentary filmmaker, video and television producer, director and writer, I look back on the lessons I learned with a rifle at my shoulder or a

It stays forever in your heart



Unfortunately, it also stays forever in your lungs

Are you or a loved one a Navy, Merchant Marine or Coast Guard veteran who suffers or has died from asbestos-related

Mesothelioma or Lung Cancer?

Know your rights, and know what you're entitled to from the asbestos companies.

Few firms have the track record of Weitz & Luxenberg in securing
over \$3 Billion in verdicts and settlements for asbestos victims and their families.

For a free consultation with the law firm to which *other lawyers* refer their asbestos cases,
call the Weitz & Luxenberg client relations department at **1-888-411-LAWS (5297)** today.

WEITZ & LUXENBERG P.C.
ASBESTOS • DRUGS/MEDICAL DEVICES • ENVIRONMENTAL • NEGLIGENCE

LAW OFFICES

700 Broadway • New York, NY 10003
BRANCH OFFICES IN NEW JERSEY, CALIFORNIA & COLORADO
1.888.411.LAWS • www.weitzlux.com

Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome. We may associate with local firms in states wherein we do not maintain an office.

Fig's®
Gifts in Good Taste®
Est. 1944

SAVE 25%

Taste Figi's quality with our incredible Tasteful Traditions!
This generous gift delivers Wisconsin's fine Cheeses,
Smokehouse Sausages and More.

An impressive gift with a gathering of our tastiest treats to savor and enjoy. Grade A Wisconsin Sharp Cheddar, Colby and Brick Cheeses, Cheese Spreads, Smoked Sausages, layered Tortes, creamy Milk chocolate, and more. A true gift for friends, family, and co-workers. Net wt. 3 lbs.

~~Gift 4542....\$39.99~~

Only \$29.99

Plus \$4.95 per gift for shipping and handling.

FREE GIFT!

Receive this
Holiday Ornament
with every order.



Order Today!

Figis.com • 1-800-422-3444 Provide source code 060/9107

Offer expires December 31, 2012

60K-FSA2

pistol in my extended hand and appreciate their value. When everything in my world was crashing around me, The American Legion and the National Rifle Association punched my ticket. I wrote about that journey in my latest book, "American Shooter: A Personal History of Gun Culture in the United States." Examining one's life in the context of a history of deeply rooted traditions can be sobering, especially considering the state of today's perception of the sport that gave me the life I've enjoyed.

Over the decades, I've taught young people how to shoot and passed on Doc Meissner's lessons, which became part of my DNA. Boys from broken homes, young felons awaiting trial, kids tucking air rifles under their chins for the first time – I've tried to give back to the sport what it taught me. Respect for rules, the rewards of practice, sportsmanship, earning the esteem of peers and aspiring to a higher level

of success are all part of the traditions of marksmanship and American character that trace back to the colonies at Jamestown.

Today, sadly, the howling, chest-beating and political maneuvering of a handful of ideologues has forced shooters from a feeling of pride in accomplishment to a qualifying defense of their sport. Extremists at both ends of the firearms debate use fear as their primary persuasion tool. Statistics are manipulated, word meanings are shaded, quotes are misinterpreted, and the field is claimed by whomever can woof and stomp the loudest. Sport shooters fear being labeled as "gun nuts," communities fear rampages in the streets led by assault rifle-armed crazies, and citizens everywhere fear the usurping of their rights and liberties. The United States is a nation of mutts. We are conservative and progressive under the same roof. That lashup was recognized by the framers of the Constitution, and in their wisdom compromise won out over the inflexibility of ironclad ideology.

A gun is a tool like a hammer or a stick of dynamite. Where and how it is applied to a task

depends on the person using it. A sporting firearm is no less a recreational tool than a golf club, a tennis racket, a race car or a hot-air balloon – except it is less dangerous. Can we return marksmanship to its once traditional sports position as a spectator event? Can we embrace sporting firearms as part of a national shooting sports league? Can we spend some of the energy wasted on a deadlocked debate on disconnecting weapons required by the military and police from sporting and recreational venues? Can more ranges and facilities be built like the acres of golf courses that plaster the nation? Can more groups like the Legion and other membership organizations sponsor air rifle or .22 teams?

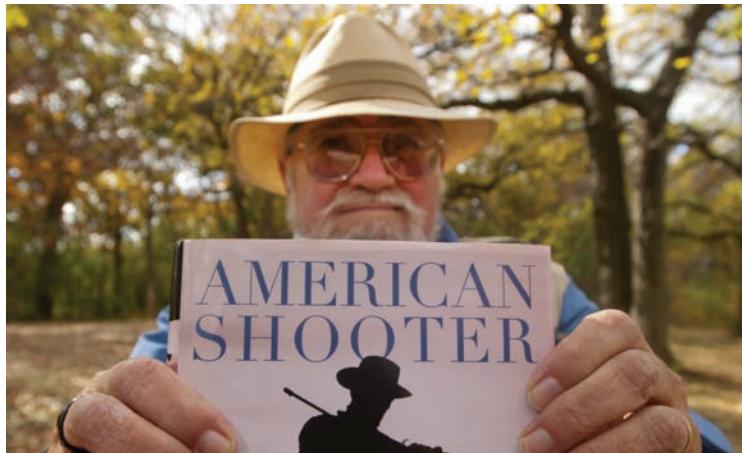
Today's kids – and adults too – are under a lot of pressure: population, the economy, constant media alarms, expectations and ambitions. They all need,

at some time, to get their ticket punched to blossom, as I did. The tradition of marksmanship is as good a stress reliever as draining a 20-foot putt on the 18th green, a wicked backhand at the net, drifting through a corner at speed, or landing a big bass on light tackle. Consider the satisfactions of drilling a clutch

bull's-eye at 100 meters, dusting a double on the trap range, pranging 10 steel discs in as many seconds, or notching the V in a black-powder shoot.

Young people must approach sporting firearms not with fear but with anticipation, a chance to participate in a traditional sport as old as modern civilization. It is a skill requiring discipline and character, and its rewards are great. Learning to handle a firearm with respect and consistency translates to other endeavors down the road. Looking back on a life that really began in an American Legion post's basement with a rifle in my hands is a fine memory to pass along. ¶

Gerry Souter has worked as an art teacher, security guard, rifle instructor and seaman in the Merchant Marine. He is the author of more than 50 books.



In his latest book, "American Shooter," Souter combines a history of guns in the United States with a personal account of his experiences in recreational shooting at an American Legion post. Photo by Eldon Lindsay

"USMC Freedom Fighter"

Men's Hoodie

A custom-crafted apparel exclusive

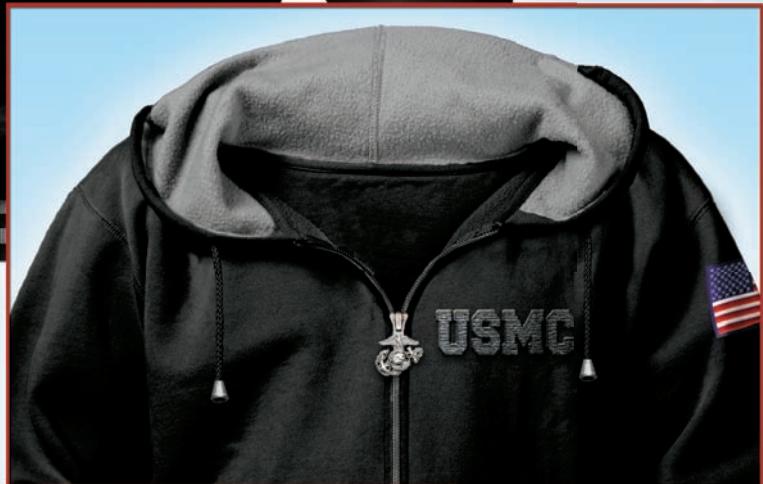
Versatile hoodie style crafted in easy-care, comfort knit



Features front pockets, knit cuffs and hem



The back is emblazoned with a bold patch showcasing the freedom fighting strength of the Marines with images of the majestic eagle, the American flag and the USMC emblem



Show Your Allegiance to the Brotherhood of USMC Freedom Fighters

Wrap yourself in Marine Corps pride and casual comfort with our "USMC Freedom Fighter" Men's Hoodie. Crafted in easy-care black cotton blend knit, with brushed fleece on the inside, it showcases a back patch featuring a stirring cameo of a spirited eagle and American flag along with the Marine emblem of eagle, globe and anchor. The front features "USMC" on the chest, and the left sleeve bears an American flag patch. There's plenty of design detail throughout this apparel exclusive, like contrasting gray lining in the hood, generous front pockets, knit cuffs and hem with gray stripes, a full front zipper with metallic USMC emblem zipper pull, and chrome-look metal tippets on the hood drawstrings. Imported.

Affordably Priced... with Satisfaction Guaranteed

Available in 4 sizes, this sharp-looking hoodie is a great value at just \$89.95*, payable in 4 convenient installments of \$22.48 each, and backed by our 30-day money-back guarantee. To reserve yours, send no money now; just return the Reservation Application. This is a limited-time offer, so order today!

www.bradfordexchange.com/usmchoodie

TM Officially Licensed Product of the United States Marine Corps.



Metallic Marine emblem zipper pull hangs from the full-length front zipper

©2012 BGE 01-13489-001-BIR

RESERVATION APPLICATION

SEND NO MONEY NOW

THE
BRADFORD EXCHANGE
APPAREL & ACCESSORIES

9345 Milwaukee Avenue • Niles, IL 60714-1393

YES. Please reserve the "USMC Freedom Fighter" Men's Hoodie for me as described in this announcement. I've checked my size preference below.

Please Respond Promptly

M(38-40) 01-13489-011 XL(46-48) 01-13489-013
 L(42-44) 01-13489-012 XXL(50-52) 01-13489-014

Mrs. Mr. Ms.

Name (Please Print Clearly)

Address

City

State

Zip

-E94901-

*Plus \$9.99 shipping and service. Please allow 4 to 8 weeks after the first payment for shipment. All sales are subject to product availability and order acceptance.

'Because of the common cause'

USAA CEO Joe Robles shares the organization's recipe for success during tough economic times and how its relationship with The American Legion helps. Since January 2011, USAA has been the Legion's preferred provider of financial services.

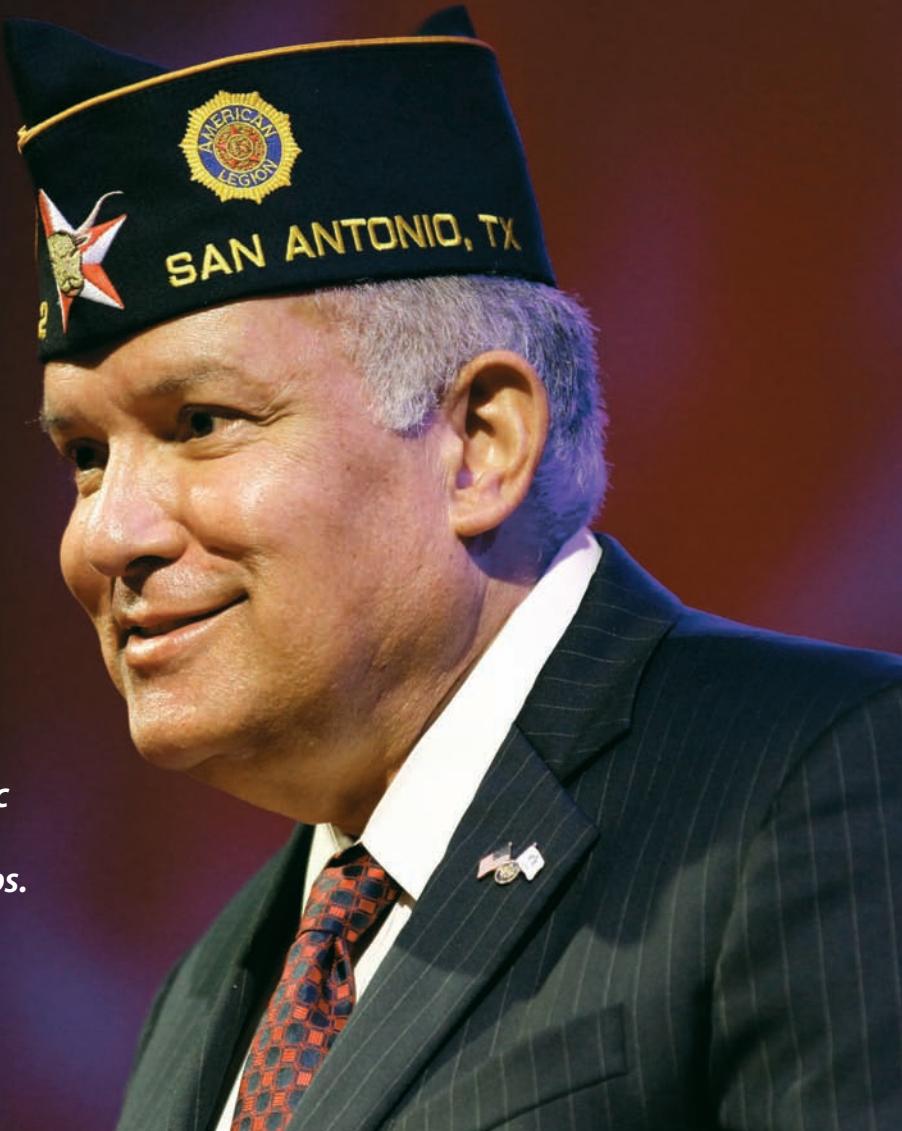


Photo by Tom Strattman

Retired U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Josue "Joe" Robles has spent nearly 20 years proving that tradition and innovation are not mutually exclusive terms.

As president and CEO of 90-year-old USAA, The American Legion's preferred provider of financial services, Robles has helped successfully steer the company through one of the most turbulent times in U.S. economic history. As other major banks and insurance providers have staggered through the global recession, USAA has increased its member base, pioneered technological breakthroughs, and positioned itself as a model for customer service in a 21st century society that has grown ever more comfortable doing personal business over the phone and online.

Since January 2011, when the formal relationship began, tens of thousands of American Legion members have called the special toll-free phone number at **1-877-699-2654**

or visited www.usaa.com/legion to purchase and receive USAA insurance and financial products and services.

As part of the relationship, USAA contributes to American Legion programs when Legion members or qualified dependents use the toll-free number or website to buy specific USAA products and services.

Robles, a decorated combat veteran and former commanding general of the U.S. Army's 1st Infantry Division, says the preferred-provider relationship is off to a successful start because USAA and The American Legion share more than a business arrangement — they share common values, traditions, and confidence in a future guided by those who have worn the uniform and their families.

A Paid-Up-For-Life member of The American Legion, Robles recently spoke with *The American Legion Magazine*.

What were USAA's expectations heading into its relationship with The American Legion, and how well have they been fulfilled?

From my perspective, results have exceeded expectations. When we signed the deal with The American Legion, we were joining a group of veterans, and people who advocate for veterans, that was unsurpassed. Among all the 200-plus groups who the Department of Defense says constitute the affinity groups of the veterans market, the Legion is the gold standard when it comes to advocating for and caring about veterans.

Oh, and by the way, the Legion was organized about the same time as USAA. The Legion was established in 1919, and we started doing business in 1922. We've been in business since then, as has the Legion. We really appreciated an affinity that shared our advocacy and love for veterans' points of view. We have not deviated from our course, nor has the Legion.

Since USAA expanded eligibility beyond officers and former officers, and opened its doors to veterans who honorably served, how has USAA's philosophy been affected?

I believe we are better for it. The change illustrated that there were a whole lot of people out there who were every bit as important for us to serve way back when who we just didn't have the capacity to serve at the time. As a team, we made the decision to staff up and become an important force in the lives of veterans and their families. The first group we looked at was The American Legion. They look like us. They act like us. They share our same DNA. What a group to be aligned with!

So the big challenge was to build capacity to serve more members?

Yes. One of the things our members demanded of me, as CEO, was not to degrade our service or the quality of our products, or the competitiveness of our products. They didn't want us to bring in a whole bunch of people too fast and degrade our service or operating capabilities. I promised them that we would stay focused on quality, we would stay focused on member satisfaction, and as more veterans who had honorably served became members, we would maintain that same high level of excellence.

As Legionnaires are joining USAA in greater numbers, what are they looking for?

I honestly think they are looking to us for, and should be looking to us for, financial advice about their future. How to prepare for and live in retirement. That is probably one of the biggest needs

among many Americans today. We have a huge population of people like me – baby boomers – who are marching off to retirement at a pace of about 10,000 a day for the next 19 years. That's the current prognosis. So when you have 10,000 people a day going into retirement who probably haven't thought about or planned for retirement, and who most likely haven't sought professional advice, their savings may be inadequate. They may not know how to preserve their savings and live within their means. They may not know how to get the income-producing assets they will most likely need in retirement. Presently, they want cash because they have bills to pay and groceries to buy.

I think the one of the best things we offer today, along with our many competitively priced products and services, is the ability to speak with individuals, assess their needs and provide them an opportunity to plan a financial future with a professional adviser.

How important is it for Legionnaires to help their children join USAA?

Very. Once a member, always a member. Once you establish membership by purchasing a USAA auto or property insurance policy, your children become eligible for membership. This is especially important now, when we have a lot of World War II and Korean War veterans who served and are becoming members of USAA through our affinity program with The American Legion. Their children may want to become members, and some are becoming members. It is working out exactly the way we thought and hoped it would.

USAA's 2011 annual report was titled "Moments of Truth." Why was that, and can you say what the 2012 annual report's theme will be?

We used that title because we had our worst catastrophe-filled year in the history of USAA. We spent \$1.4 billion last year settling claims for our members. That is not a small and insignificant number. There were a lot of hailstorms. There were fires in the West and the Southwest. There were floods in the spring. There were tornadoes. We saw nearly everything. The only thing we didn't experience was a major hurricane.

Because 2011 was such an overwhelming year for our members, it was our moment of truth to be able to take care of them in one of their greatest

Watch the entire Joe Robles interview online:
 www.legion.org/magazine

moments of need. I like to say around our headquarters that when we have a catastrophe, a big fire, hailstorm or a hurricane, it's our Super Bowl. It's our Super Bowl because we get the chance to show our members how much we really care about them, and that we are going to do everything humanly possible to help them get back on track. We try to settle member claims as quickly as possible. In fact, I was giving a presentation to our board, and I showed them a video of a member family outside of Dallas-Fort Worth, where the house was leveled. Within 72 hours, USAA adjusters arrived on site, assessed the damage, wrote them a check and put it into their hands. Within six weeks, that family was moving into a brand-new house to start a new life and leaving behind the pile of rubble. That's a moment of truth. That's our moment of truth! In many cases, we can settle a claim as fast as any, and faster than most, of our competitors.

What I would call the "new normal" is also a moment of truth. The world we knew before the terrible downturn that the global economy is changing. So we've got to continually be preparing for the future and helping our members do the same. It's a different future than we thought it would be just a few years ago. To quote my favorite sports commentator, Yogi Berra, "The future ain't what it used to be."

We've got to think about the millennial generation. They have a different set of needs and wants than our generation does. They are all very technology literate. They like to do things on Facebook and Twitter. They also share our ambition and desire to do well. I know because I have one in my household.

USAA is planning for that generational and technological change, as well as whatever may happen from a global perspective.

How has USAA insulated itself from the troubles other banks and big insurance companies have experienced in recent years?

People ask me all the time, "What's the secret sauce for USAA? Why are you so successful when everybody else is struggling in many respects?"

It's a simple, three-part formula.

One part is the customer, or what we call members, who are honorable people who don't try to rip us off, who pay their bills on time and who, when they have a problem, are willing to admit they have a problem.

The second part is our approximately 23,500 employees, who are focused on USAA's mission,

which is to be the provider of choice for the military community and facilitate their financial security. To take care of those families. I never have to raise my voice. I just say to them, "We've got to help our members ... in everything we do." And our employees go off and take care of business.

And the third part is our incredible financial strength due to our efficiency and prudent financial management.

Are Legionnaires getting used to banking and doing insurance business over the phone and online?

Thirty-five years ago, people were saying, "You can't sell insurance over the phone. You can't do banking over the phone. You can't do investments over the phone."

And we said, "Oh yes we can." If we are smart enough to use simple and easy-to-understand technology and business processes, and we have the goodwill of our members, we will be very successful.

We have proven what happens when you treat your customers right, have the membership's interest at heart and tell them what to expect. And with this big technological boom, I think we have a gigantic head start. Some of our competitors are just now catching up, but we are pioneers.

For example, being able to deposit a check just by taking a picture of it on a smartphone and zipping it right into USAA Bank. People told me when I was a CFO, "That ain't gonna work. No one is ever going to do that." Well, we get deposits in the billions of dollars now on mobile. Not hundreds. Not thousands of dollars. Not even millions. Billions of dollars.

How do you see the relationship between USAA and The American Legion evolving?

Very positive. We are going to work really hard at continuing to build our relationship. We don't assume anything. We don't sign a contract and then just forget about it. Right now, about 50,000 members of The American Legion have joined USAA through the special toll free number (1-877-699-2654) and our Legion-dedicated website (www.usaa.com/legion). We have issued about 35,000 co-branded credit cards. We hope these numbers continue to grow. We are going to work hard, and we know The American Legion and its membership will continue to honor that hard work.

For us, this has been a wonderful relationship because of our common cause – veterans and their families – and because it makes good business sense for all. ☺

OFFICIAL MILITARY VETERAN CAPS & RINGS

You'll be proud to wear the service cap dedicated to every veteran who served in every branch and war of our Armed Forces.

All caps are solid. 100% brush cotton twill. Adjustable strap - one size fits all. **Perfect Gift!**

NEW!



WWII*



Korea



Vietnam



Disabled Vet.



Home of the Brave



Army*



Navy



Marines



Coast Guard



Air Force*

**ONLY \$14⁹⁵ 2 ONLY \$25⁹⁵*
4 ONLY \$47⁹⁵ *FREE CAP w/ ANY RING!**

*Richly Embroidered Official Scrambled Eggs Add \$5 Each Cap (shown on brim above). Available with or without Eggs

MILITARY SERVICE RINGS LIFETIME WARRANTY

ANY RING
ONLY \$59.95

WITH FREE GIFT POUCH!

***ANY 2 RINGS ONLY \$99 + FREE CAP!**



Richly crafted with 18k heavy gold electroplate or in pure plated white rhodium, hand finished and precisely set with Ruby or Sapphire Austrian crystal. Logos are etched into stone with gold leaf, each side contains finely sculpted emblems of each branch as well. Or choose our new rings in pure white rhodium plated with 18k heavy gold electroplated insignias (shown on top).

Order by Phone: 516-741-0346 or at www.Rushindustries.com (ARH386MP)

30 DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE (less S&H)

Please enter style, quantity, and ring size:

Military Caps: Army Navy Marines Force Air Coast Guard Special USA Forces Pride WWII Korean Viet. Iraqi Dis. Vet. POW

No Eggs

Eggs Add \$5 N/A N/A N/A

(Shown Above*)

Military Rings: Army Navy Marines Air Force Coast Guard Special Forces

Gold Color w/ Stone Ring Size(s):

Silver Color w/ Stone 8 9 10

Silver Color w/o Stone 11 12 13

N/A N/A 14 15

SPECIAL: ANY 2 RINGS FOR ONLY \$99 + FREE CAP!

For rings or caps add \$4.95 S&H plus \$1.95 for each add'l item. *Note: FREE Cap (No Eggs)

Express Service add \$3.00 per order (5-7 Business Days) Value of \$14.95!

Add \$5 for Scrambled Eggs

Note: For personal checks, there will be a 10 day verification delay.

Special Forces, Iraqi, & POW
Similar Style Not Shown

Send to:

Rush Industries, Inc. Dept: ARH386MP
263 Horton Highway, Mineola, NY 11501

Enclosed is \$ _____ or charge it

VISA MasterCard AMERICAN EXPRESS DISCOVER

Acct. #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name: _____

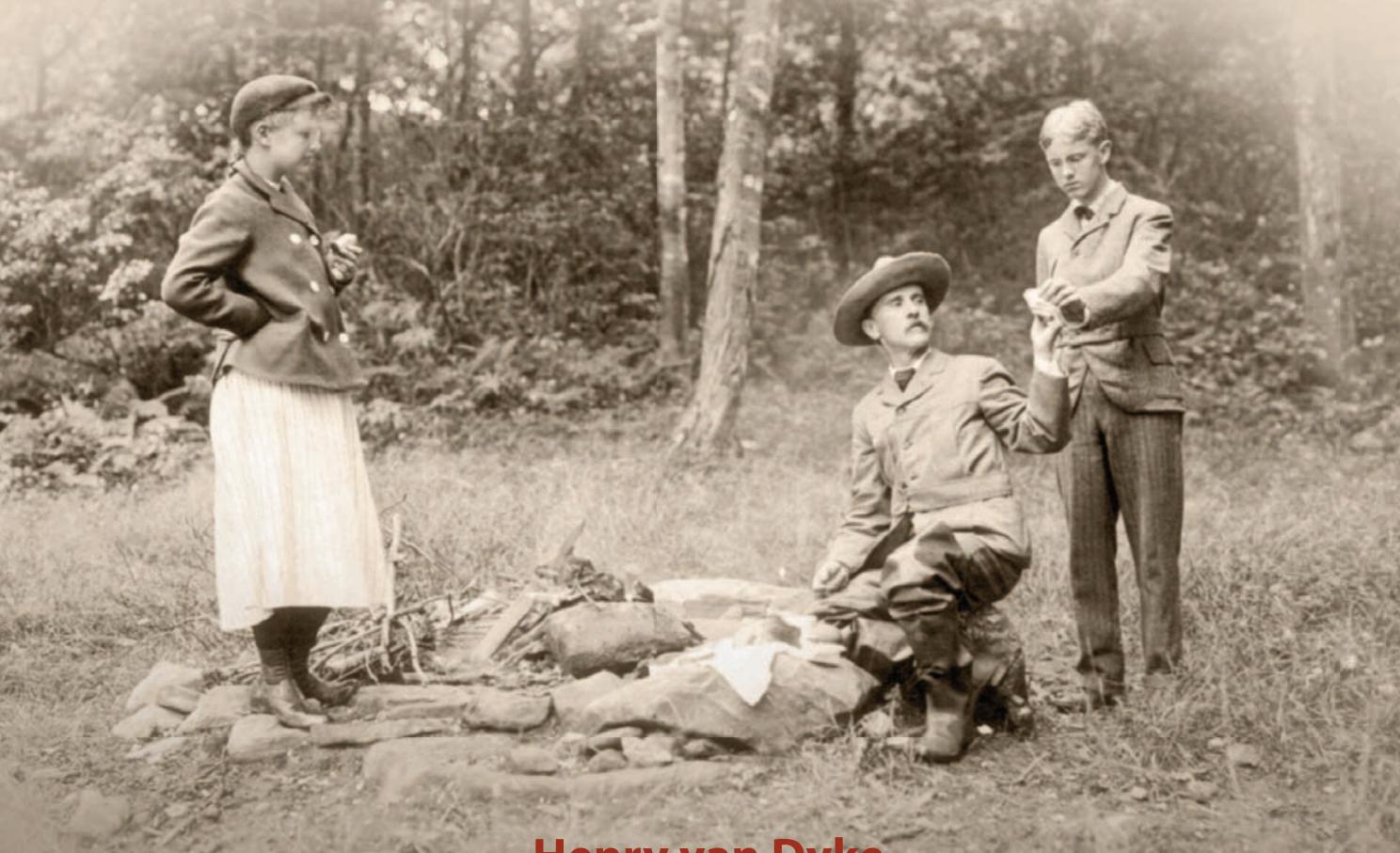
Address: _____

City: _____

State _____ Zip _____

So it's home again, and home again, America for me!
My heart is turning home again and there I long to be
In the land of youth and freedom, beyond the ocean bars,
Where the air is full of sunlight and the flag is full of stars.

– from "America For Me," Henry van Dyke, 1909



Henry van Dyke

Preacher, author and poet

Born in Germantown, Pa., in 1852, van Dyke was an outdoorsman, minister, writer, professor and diplomat. He graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1877 and, as pastor of Brick Presbyterian Church in New York, gained a reputation as one of the city's greatest preachers. He published several books and dozens of short stories, including "The Ruling Passion," "The Blue Flower" and "The Unknown Quantity." Van Dyke returned to Princeton as a professor of English literature in 1899 and became an American lecturer at the University of Paris in 1908. President Woodrow Wilson, a friend and former classmate, appointed him ambassador to the Netherlands and Luxembourg in 1913. Following that post, van Dyke became a chaplain in the Naval Reserve. He died in 1933.

Library of Congress photo

The invention of the year is great news for your ears

*Perfect Choice HD™ is easy to use,
hard to see and costs far less...
it's like reading glasses for your ears™!*

New Personal Sound Amplification Product is an affordable alternative

Over the years, technology has made the way we live easier, safer and more convenient. In many cases, it's even made many products more affordable... (remember how much the first VCR used to cost?). Unfortunately, the cost of hearing aids never seemed to come down. Now, a new alternative has been invented... it's called Perfect Choice HD™.

"Reading glasses for your ears"

Perfect Choice HD is NOT a hearing aid. Hearing aids can only be sold by an audiologist or a licensed hearing instrument specialist. In order to get a hearing aid, you had to go to the doctor's office for a battery of tests and numerous fitting appointments. Once they had you tested and fitted, you would have to pay as much as \$5000 for the product. Now, thanks to the efforts of the doctor who leads a renowned

hearing institute, there is Perfect Choice HD. It's designed to accurately amplify sounds and deliver them to your ear. Because we've developed an efficient production process, we can make a great product at an affordable price. The unit has been designed to have an easily accessible battery, but it is small and lightweight enough to hide behind your ear... only you'll know you have it on.

Perfect Choice HD feature comparison		
	Perfect Choice HD	Others
Lightweight and Inconspicuous	YES	Some
Easy Toggle Switch Adjustment	YES	Few
Tests and Fittings Required	NO	Most
Affordable	YES	as much as \$5000
Friendly Return Policy	YES	Rarely

It's comfortable and won't make you feel like you have something stuck in your ear. It provides high quality audio so sounds and conversations will be easier to hear and understand.

Are you or a loved one frustrated in these situations?

- Restaurants • Dinner parties
- Outdoor conversations
- Lectures • Sermons
- Meetings

...and other times where you need to turn up the volume



*Affordable, Simple to use,
Virtually impossible to see*

return it within 60 days for a refund of the full product purchase price. Don't wait... don't miss out on another conversation... call now!

**Perfect
Choice HD™**

**Call now for
the lowest price ever.**

Please mention promotional code
46055.

1-888-693-8423

1998 Ruffin Mill Road • Colonial Heights, VA 23834

Perfect Choice HD is not a hearing aid. If you believe you need a hearing aid, please consult a physician.
Not available in the state of Washington.



Photos courtesy Post 171

Our Legion Christmas

Storm King Post 171, Mineral, Wash.

Storm King Post 171 is known for its annual Christmas tree lighting, and last year's event was the most memorable yet. The day began with Auxiliary Unit 171 hosting a Secret Santa gift shop at the post for children and families to buy Christmas presents. Later, the post's members served up chili, Polish dogs, hot dogs and drinks for those who were hungry. Members of the Auxiliary sold baked goods for dessert.

The land surrounding the post hall was a winter wonderland. Jim Hale donated a tall tree from the Hale tree farm, and members put it up between the hall and Headquarters Tavern. The tree had bright and colorful new LED lights and was decorated with red robins and a few glass ornaments. At the base of the tree, a brightly lit Santa Claus train directed families to a spot where they could get photos taken with Santa. Lights also covered the American Legion hall, which had a tent and awning for people to stay dry and another for eating at picnic benches. For warmth, we stationed propane and kerosene heaters all around the property.

Steve and Debbie Downs kicked off the evening's festivities by leading the crowd in singing Christmas carols, and we showed a film of Sen. John McCain speaking about

[TROOP SUPPORT]

OCW reaches out to wounded warriors at Walter Reed

A group of American Legion staff members visited patients at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., on Oct. 5 as part of the organization's ongoing efforts to support U.S. troops and their families.

Lori Perkio, an assistant director for the Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Division, presented a Blue Star Banner to the parents of Army Spc. Matthew Commons, who stepped on an IED while on patrol in Kandahar, Afghanistan, on May 23. He suffered severe leg injuries, and his right foot is still at risk for amputation. American Legion Post 259 in Williamsport, Ind., provided the banner, coins and certificates of appreciation for Commons and his parents.

Meanwhile, the Legion's Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW) program provided Amazon gift cards, water bottles and baseball caps to Commons and 40 other patients. That night, they attended a Legion-sponsored steak dinner.

Hosted by the Aleethia Foundation at the National Press Club, the dinner has been a weekly tradition in Washington since 2003, when Aleethia organized the Friday night gatherings as a way to help recently injured troops and their families enjoy an evening of social dining away from the hospital. The American Legion is one of several organizations that sponsor the event on a rotating basis.

National Commander Jim Koutz's main fundraising project is OCW, which supplements the high-quality care at U.S. military hospitals and transition units by providing exercise equipment, rehabilitation gear and other comfort items not supplied by the government. Koutz intends to raise \$500,000 for OCW during his year as commander.

Learn more about the program or make a donation:

🌐 www.legion.org/ocw

[VERBATIM]

“We tried ... to show them how dangerous and volatile and just unpredictable that whole environment was over there.”

Lt. Col. Andy Wood, former head of a Special Forces site security team in Libya, who claimed that the State Department ignored requests for enhanced security in the six months leading up to the Benghazi terrorist attack, removing as many as 34 people from the country

“I said, ‘Hey, you’re going to be taken home by the Marines today.’ And we made it to the finish line.”

Gunnery Sgt. Wilbur Anderson, who joined other Marines in helping bone cancer survivor Ben Baltz, 11, complete a triathlon after the boy’s prosthetic leg broke. Pfc. Matt Morgan carried Baltz the rest of the way.

“The controversy (was) on a play that’s never happened in the history of the NFL. You can go back to the archives. You will not find that play.”

Lance Easley, replacement referee, who signaled a touchdown on the last play of the Seahawks-Packers game Sept. 24. The ruling was that the players caught the ball simultaneously, which means possession goes to the receiver. Fans and sports analysts disputed the ruling, which decided the game.

“One of the most glorious messes in the world is the mess created in the living room on Christmas Day. Don’t clean it up too quickly.”

Andy Rooney, longtime CBS News correspondent and World War II Army veteran (1919-2011)

Sources: CBS News, ABC News, NBC “TODAY” News



his last Christmas of five as a prisoner of war in Vietnam. He recalled how he had requested a Bible from the Viet Cong, and they gave him one to copy – but only for five minutes, so he just wrote down the Christmas verses. Following the video, Legionnaires put up a cross and placed a wreath on it representing all U.S. servicemembers who have been prisoners of war or remain missing.

Finally, Santa and a few of his elves arrived via Mineral fire truck. The children were so excited to see him. He greeted them before lighting the tree, then took pictures with children and their families, thanks to Jewel’s Creations Photography.

During the Christmas event, Post 171 conducted a raffle for a turkey meal, a ham meal, a pizza-making kit, lots of Almond Roca toffee and a Budweiser stein. All the proceeds benefited veterans and their families. All in all, it was a great day here in Mineral.

— Kevin McMains, Post 171 adjutant



Lori Perkio of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Division greets 82nd Airborne soldiers Lucas Oppelt, left, Jordan Folmar and Matthew Commons. Photo by Craig Roberts



VEER



Ted Roosevelt IV presents a portrait of his grandfather, Theodore Roosevelt Jr., to the National Executive Committee. Photo by Eldon Lindsay

[FALL MEETINGS]

Grandson of Roosevelt Jr. to lead anniversary committee

During the Fall Meetings, The American Legion's National Executive Committee passed a resolution naming Ted Roosevelt IV of New York, a Vietnam War Navy veteran, chairman of the organization's 100th Anniversary Observance Honorary Committee.

"I am honored and even more humbled by the opportunity to work with The American Legion to help it discharge the nation's obligations to its veterans," Roosevelt said. "The American Legion – what it has done, what it is doing and what it will continue to do – is exactly what my grandfather and his fellow co-founders intended to achieve."

Roosevelt will lead an honorary committee of distinguished Americans whose lives have been influenced by the Legion. Led by Past National Commanders Robert Spanogle and David Rehbein, the 100th Anniversary Observance Committee is developing plans to pay tribute to the Legion centennial, particularly at the post level, with major celebrations scheduled for the 2018 and 2019 national conventions, in Minneapolis and Indianapolis, respectively.

The NEC also passed Resolution 64, which charges the Legion's Internal Affairs Commission and Membership & Post Activities Committee with developing a five-year plan to reach a record 3.3 million members by 2019.

"We've passed a lot of important resolutions during these meetings, but none of them will matter if we aren't around to implement them," National Commander Jim Koutz said. "If we don't keep advancing membership, who will be there to keep veterans from falling through the cracks?"

Charles Schmidt, National Executive Committeeman for Oregon, said that the Legion's membership is a measuring stick of its influence.

"It's our voice on Capitol Hill, and we need a strong voice with all the issues that our veterans are going through," he said. "We cannot afford for that voice to become a soft whisper."

Operation Comfort Warriors, Koutz's main fundraising project, received nearly \$60,000 in generous contributions from posts, departments and other military-friendly organizations during the meetings.

KEY RESOLUTIONS OF THE NEC'S 2012 FALL MEETINGS

AMERICANISM

- 14** Extend contract for Shelby, N.C., to host Legion Baseball World Series through 2019
- 16** Mandatory background check screenings for coaches, managers and volunteer staff of American Legion Baseball teams

ECONOMIC

- 22** Support legislation that preserves quick delivery of VA claims and protects veteran employees of the U.S. Postal Service

FINANCE

- 1** Appoint Ted Roosevelt IV chairman of The American Legion's 100th Anniversary Observance Honorary Committee

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

- 64** Develop a five-year strategic plan for growing membership

NATIONAL SECURITY

- 55** Use all resources at the Legion's disposal to prevent sequestration defense cuts
- 55** Urge government to reopen National Guard Patriot Academy at Muscatatuck Urban Training Center in Butlerville, Ind.

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

- 39** Urge VA to develop a national strategic plan to meet the needs of female veterans

The full text of all resolutions passed at the Fall Meetings is available online:

 archive.legion.org, click on "Resolutions"

GUARANTEED CHRISTMAS DELIVERY
1-866-768-6517 • www.bradfordexchange.com/14666

My Granddaughter...

I Love You to the Moon and Back Diamond Pendant

The love you have for your precious granddaughter reaches to the sky! Tell her exactly how you feel with a gift that shines as brightly as the love in your heart. Our "I Love You to the Moon and Back" Granddaughter Diamond Pendant is a glittering symbol of the never-ending joy she brings to your life!

Exquisitely Hand-crafted in an Exclusive Design

Finely hand-crafted in solid sterling silver, this pendant is shaped like a delicate sliver of the moon that features a textured pavé design with a beaded border and a gleaming inside edge. Gracefully suspending from the "tip" of the moon is a beautiful open heart that holds a sparkling solitaire diamond. The reverse side of the moon is engraved with the message, "Granddaughter, I Love You to the Moon and Back". An 18" sterling silver chain completes the beautiful look.

An Exceptional Value

A remarkable value at \$99, the pendant is payable in 4 installments of \$24.75 and is backed by our unconditional 120-day guarantee. It arrives in a velvet jewelry pouch with gift box and a Certificate of Authenticity. Send no money now; just mail the Reservation Application.

This pendant is *only available* from The Bradford Exchange. Order today!

www.bradfordexchange.com/14666



*Moon engraved on the
reverse side with:
"Granddaughter,
I Love You to
the Moon and Back"*



*Genuine Solitaire
Diamond*

*Hand-crafted in
Solid Sterling Silver*

Beautifully Engraved

*Exclusively Designed...
Exquisitely Hand-crafted*

LIMITED-TIME OFFER

Reservations will be accepted on a **first-come, first-served basis**. Respond as soon as possible to reserve your "Granddaughter, I Love You to the Moon and Back" Pendant.



Shown actual size

**ORDER PROMPTLY FOR
CHRISTMAS DELIVERY!**

*Plus \$9.98 shipping and service.
Sales subject to product availability
and order acceptance.

RESERVATION APPLICATION **SEND NO MONEY NOW**

**THE
BRADFORD EXCHANGE
JEWELRY**

9345 Milwaukee Avenue · Niles, IL 60714-1393

YES. Please reserve the "I Love You to the Moon and Back Granddaughter" Diamond Pendant for me as described in this announcement.

Signature _____

Mrs. Mr. Ms. _____

Name (Please Print Clearly)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail (Optional) _____

01-14666-001-E94901



Photo courtesy Post 2

Edward B. Rhodes/Parkland Post 2, Tacoma, Wash.

In 2011, Edward B. Rhodes Post 2 assisted in organizing four Christmas parties for the families of more than 500 soldiers of 4th Brigade, 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry at Joint Base Lewis-McChord. We started sponsoring "Chaos" Company of the 1/38 in August 2009. In October 2010, we adopted the entire 1/38. At the first year's Christmas party, we gave age-appropriate gifts to the soldiers' children. At the past two years' parties, every child received a Build-A-Bear from Santa. We also supplied snacks or meals, whichever was requested.

—Keith Foley, Post 2 adjutant

[WAR ON TERROR]

Taliban, Iran partners in crime

The Afghan Taliban have opened an office in Iran and engaged in talks with Tehran to secure surface-to-air missiles (SAMs), *The Wall Street Journal* reports. Although the Taliban (composed of Sunni Muslims) and Iran (governed by Shiite Muslims) were at odds during the period of Taliban rule in the 1990s until the U.S. invasion in 2001, the two sides now see the United States as a common enemy.

Iran is known to have sent lethal support and to have provided training to the Taliban in recent years, but has held off from supplying "signature weapons" like SAMs and the sort of mines used by Iranian-backed insurgents against U.S. forces in Iraq.

[WAR ON TERROR]

Militants target Pakistan's nukes

For the third time in as many years, militants have attacked a facility linked to control of Pakistan's nuclear weapons. The most recent attack came in late August, when militants struck an air base west of Islamabad housing "some of Pakistan's most advanced weapons systems, possibly including nuclear warheads," Radio Free Europe reports.

The attack was repulsed by security forces, as were earlier attacks. The first came in 2009, when militants attacked the headquarters of the Pakistani military. The second came in 2011, when militants targeted a key naval facility in Karachi.

Although the United States has given Islamabad nearly \$100 million since 9/11 expressly for shoring up security at the country's nuclear bases, a retired Pakistani general concedes that "these places are vulnerable and Pakistan will have to do a lot more."



VEER

[FOREIGN AFFAIRS]

Agent Orange cleanup

The United States and Vietnam have begun a joint effort to clean up Agent Orange residue at Da Nang International Airport.

"The U.S. military sprayed up to 12 million gallons of the defoliant onto Vietnam's jungles over a 10-year period during the Vietnam War," according to Reuters. Now the United States is providing \$41 million to reduce contamination levels in 73,000 cubic meters of soil. "The contaminated soil and sediment will be excavated and heated in a pile structure to a high temperature to destroy the chemical."

Vietnam is building a power station to support the project.

[ENERGY]

A new oil power

The main topic of conversation at a recent OPEC conference in Vienna was the re-emergence of the United States as a global oil power. As *Financial Times* reports, "Over the past three years, the United States has accounted for the entire net increase in global oil output, excluding OPEC members and former Soviet republics." In fact, the

United States increased oil and liquid hydrocarbon output by 1.1 million barrels per day between 2008 and 2011.

As the United States expands development of shale oil, output will only grow. Ryan Lance, CEO of ConocoPhillips, says his firm expects U.S. shale-liquids production to grow by 150 percent by 2020. "Thanks to both shale and the Canadian oil sands, North America could become self-sufficient in oil ... by 2025 and even a net exporter."



VEER

[FOREIGN AFFAIRS]

New recruits

Israel recently welcomed 127 soldiers-to-be from around the world during ceremonies at Ben-Gurion International Airport outside Tel Aviv. These "lone soldiers" leave their native countries to become Israeli citizens and defend the Jewish state.

As *The New York Times* reports, "Israel has enlisted 8,217 men and women from other countries since 2009, 1,661 of them from the United States, second only to Russia's 1,685."

No Contract

NEW

Finally, a cell phone that's... a phone

Better
Sound and
Longer Battery Life

Introducing the all-new Jitterbug® Plus.

We've made it even better... without making it harder to use.

"All my friends have new cell phones. They carry them around with them all day, like mini computers, with little tiny keyboards and hundreds of programs which are supposed to make their life easier. Trouble is... my friends can't use them. The keypads are too small, the displays are hard to see and the phones are so complicated that my friends end up borrowing my Jitterbug when they need to make a call. I don't mind... I just got a new phone too... **the new Jitterbug Plus. Now I have all the things I loved about my Jitterbug phone along with some great new features that make it even better!**

GreatCall® created the Jitterbug with one thing in mind – to offer people a cell phone that's easy to see and hear, and is simple to use and affordable. Now, they've made the cell phone experience even better with the Jitterbug Plus. It features a lightweight, comfortable design with a backlit keypad and big, legible numbers. There is even a dial tone so you know the phone is ready to use. You can also increase the volume with one touch and the speaker's been improved so you get great audio quality and can hear every word. The battery has been improved too– it's one of the longest lasting on the market– so you won't have to charge it as often. The phone comes to you with your account already set up and is easy to activate.

**Introducing
DoubleTime!
Double your monthly
minutes for life
with activation by 01/01/13**

The rate plans are simple too. Why pay for minutes you'll never use? There are a variety of affordable plans. Plus, you don't have to worry about finding yourself stuck with no minutes– that's the problem with prepaid phones.

**Call now and receive a FREE gift
just for ordering. Hurry...this is a
limited time offer. Call now!**

All-New
jitterbug
plus

firstSTREET
for Boomers and Beyond®
1998 Ruffin Mill Road
Colonial Heights, VA 23834



Available in
Silver and Red.



Jitterbug Cell Phone

Ask how you can get DoubleTime for Life!

Please mention promotional code 46054.

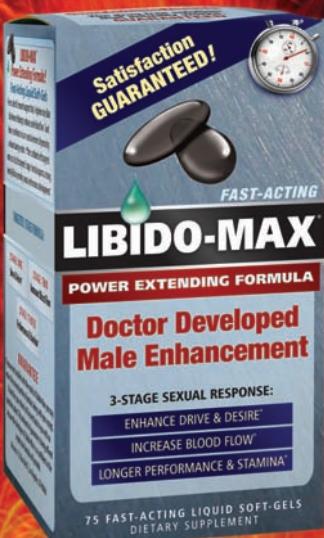
1-877-600-0829
www.jitterbugdirect.com

We proudly accept the following credit cards.



IMPORTANT CONSUMER INFORMATION: DoubleTime offer valid on Basic 19 Plan and applies to new GreatCall customers only. Offer ends 1/1/13. Offer valid until plan is charged or cancelled. All GreatCall phones require a one-time set up fee of \$35. Coverage and service are not available everywhere. You will not be able to make 9-1-1 calls when cellular service is not available. Rate plans do not include government taxes or assessment surcharges and are subject to change. No roaming or long distance charges for domestic calls within the U.S. There are no additional fees to call GreatCall's 24-hour U.S. Based Customer Service. However, for calls to an Operator in which a service is completed, minutes will be deducted from your monthly balance equal to the length of the call and any call connected by the Operator, plus an additional 5 minutes. ¹ We will refund the full price of the GreatCall phone if it is returned within 30 days of purchase in like-new condition. We will also refund your first monthly service charge if you have less than 30 minutes of usage. If you have more than 30 minutes of usage, a per minute charge of 35 cents will apply for each minute over 30 minutes. The activation fee and shipping charges are not refundable. Jitterbug and GreatCall are registered trademarks of GreatCall, Inc. Samsung is a registered trademark of Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. Copyright ©2012 Samsung Telecommunications America, LLC. Copyright ©2012 GreatCall, Inc. Copyright ©2012 by firstSTREET for Boomers and Beyond, Inc. All rights reserved.

Works For You... OR YOUR MONEY BACK!



Available for purchase with coupon in fine stores everywhere or online at:
www.appliednutrition.com
Enter Coupon Code: 011060

K Kmart **RITE AID** Rite Aid
Wfm vs. it's personal **GNC** GNC
SUPER ★ CENTERS Now Available in 10 Count

LIBIDO-MAX for MEN
75 Count ONLY
SAVE \$3

EXPIRES 02/28/13 MANUFACTURERS COUPON

Consumer: Redeemable at retail locations only. Not valid for online or mail-order purchases. Retailer: Irwin Naturals will reimburse you for the face value plus 8 cents (cents) handling provided it is redeemed by 02/28/13. Limit one coupon per customer. Void where prohibited. © 2013 Irwin Naturals, Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduction by any party by any means is expressly prohibited. Any other use constitutes fraud. Irwin Naturals reserves the right to deny reimbursement due to misredemption activity and/or request proof of purchase for coupon(s) submitted. Mail to: CMS Dept. 10363, Irwin Naturals, 1 Fawcett Drive, Del Rio, TX 78840. Cash value .001 (cents). Void where taxed or restricted. ONE COUPON PER PURCHASE. Not valid for mail order websites. Retailer only.

0710363-011060

5 10363 26387 0

These statements have not been evaluated by the Food & Drug Administration. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent any disease.

RAPID FIRE

Rutledge-Boviall-Schauf-Madison Post 95, Delavan, Wis.

In 2011, Post 95 hosted its 50th annual Christmas Day dinner for the community. In 1961, a member suggested that the post do something for those who were less fortunate, as well as individuals and families who did not want to be alone during the holidays, and the dinner quickly became a community tradition. We put on a complete turkey dinner with all the trimmings. We do carryouts for shut-ins and provide rides to the post home. Members of the Auxiliary help by baking pies, making Jell-O, decorating and serving meals. Because of the ages of some of the veterans, we get outside help from families in the community. Turkeys have been donated for the past six or seven years, and a nearby resort or assisted living facility usually helps prepare meals and bring them back to the post for serving. During the time that we're open on Christmas Day, we try to provide entertainment and singalongs if we're able, as well as a visit from Santa Claus for the children and those who are young at heart.

—Larry Malsch, Post 95 commander



Photo by Terry Mayer/Walworth County Sunday

[EDUCATION]

GI Bill transfers and VRAP



Q: I retired from the Air Force and need clarification on the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP). I transferred my Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to my children. I am currently unemployed and would like to go back to school for an audio production degree. Should I apply for VRAP to update my skills?

A: The answer depends on how much Post-9/11 GI Bill entitlement you transferred. You may be eligible for VRAP if you transferred all of your unused benefits to a spouse or dependent child. Remember, to qualify for VRAP you cannot be eligible for an education program administered by VA. Apply for the VRAP at the GI Bill website, and VA will send you a letter advising you if you qualify for the program.

Valerie Heffner, a Marine Corps veteran and member of American Legion Post 27 in Arizona, is a past vice president of the National Association of Veterans' Program Administrators. askvalerie@legion.org

[ENTERTAINMENT]

Legionnaire rolls out game app

Dale Russell of Post 117 in Billings, Mont., has turned his 25-year-old board game, Domino Roll-Out, into a smartphone app. In the game, players have 12 dominoes, and each roll of the dice takes away dominoes equal in numerical value to that roll. The goal is to earn "winnings" by placing bets on which dots a player thinks will be left at the end.

"My primary objective with the money I make is to help other veterans, be it individuals or organizations helping veterans," Russell says. "I tell people, 'I'm not claiming I have the next Nintendo. But who is to say I don't?'"

Domino Roll-Out is available for \$1.99 at the Apple App Store for use with an iPhone or iPad, and at Google Play for Android users.

www.dominorollout.com



HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS

Quality Tools at Ridiculously Low Prices

LIFETIME WARRANTY
ON ALL HAND TOOLS!

FACTORY DIRECT TO YOU!

How does Harbor Freight Tools sell high quality tools at such ridiculously low prices? We buy direct from the factories who also supply the major brands and sell direct to you. It's just that simple! See for yourself at one of our 400 Stores Nationwide and use this 20% Off Coupon on one of our 7,000 products*, plus pick up a Free 1" x 25 Ft. Tape Measure, a \$5.99 value. We stock Shop Equipment, Hand Tools, Tarps, Compressors, Air & Power Tools, Woodworking Tools, Welders, Tool Boxes, Generators, and much more.

- Over 20 Million Satisfied Customers!
- 1 Year Competitor's Low Price Guarantee!
- No Hassle Return Policy!
- 100% Satisfaction Guaranteed!
- Over 400 Stores Nationwide

Nobody Beats Our Quality, Service and Price!

SUPER COUPON!
**29 PIECE TITANIUM
NITRIE COATED
DRILL BIT SET**
drillmaster
\$9.99 REG.
PRICE
\$24.99



HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 8

Good at our stores or website or by phone. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/13/13. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!
**32 PIECE SAE/METRIC
PITTSGURGH
FULLY POLISHED
COMBINATION WRENCH SET**
**LOT NO.
68854**
\$16.99 REG.
PRICE
\$24.99



HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 4

Good at our stores or website or by phone. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/13/13. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!
**SUPER QUIET!
3200 RATED WATTS/
4000 MAX. WATTS
PORTABLE GENERATORS
(212 CC)**
**PREDATOR
GENERATORS**
LOT NO. 68528/67560/69676/69729
**LOT NO. 68527/69675/69728,
Item 68528 shown, CALIFORNIA ONLY**
\$289.99 REG.
PRICE
\$449.99



HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 4

Good at our stores or website or by phone. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/13/13. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!
**45 WATT SOLAR
PANEL KIT**
**THUNDERBOLT
SOLAR**
**LOT NO.
68751/90599**
\$139.99 REG.
PRICE
\$229.99



HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 3

Good at our stores or website or by phone. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/13/13. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

**SUPER
COUPON!**



Item 47737
shown

FREE!

WITH ANY PURCHASE

**PITTSBURGH
1" X 25 FT.
TAPE MEASURE**

ITEM 47737/69080/
69030/69031

REG. PRICE \$5.99

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 1 Cannot be used with other discount coupon or prior purchase. Coupon good at our stores or website or by phone. Offer good while supplies last. Shipping & Handling charges may apply if not picked up in-store. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/13/13. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

89865312

**SUPER
COUPON!**



Item 93640
shown

**MECHANIC'S
GLOVES**

**LARGE LOT NO.
93640/60447**

**X-LARGE LOT NO.
93641/60448**

YOUR CHOICE! \$3.49

REG. PRICE \$7.99

95024480

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 6 Good at our stores or website or by phone. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/13/13. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

95275 shown

**CENTRAL PNEUMATIC
3 GALLON, 100 PSI
OILLESS PANCAKE
AIR COMPRESSOR**

LOT NO. 95275/
69486/60637

53905920

SUPER COUPON!
**SAVE
50%**

\$39.99 REG.
PRICE
\$79.99

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 5 Good at our stores or website or by phone. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/13/13. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!
**4000 LB. CAPACITY
CABLE WINCH
PULLER**

LOT NO. 30329/69854

For dead loads only;
not for lifting.

\$12.99 REG.
PRICE
\$24.99

30329 shown

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 5 Good at our stores or website or by phone. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/13/13. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!
**NO GAS
REQUIRED!**

**90 AMP FLUX
WIRE WELDER**

CHICAGO ELECTRIC
WELDING

LOT NO. 68887

\$89.99 REG.
PRICE
\$149.99

9277637

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 3 Good at our stores or website or by phone. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/13/13. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!
**580 LB. CAPACITY
FOUR DRAWER
TOOL CART**

LOT NO. 95659

\$99.99 REG.
PRICE
\$229.99

94417102

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 4 Good at our stores or website or by phone. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/13/13. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!

**RAPID PUMP® 3 TON
HEAVY DUTY STEEL
FLOOR JACK**

68048

shown

68048

69227

shown

68048



National Commander Jim Koutz testifies before the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs committees on Oct. 3. Photo by Craig Roberts

[LEGISLATIVE]

Commander lays out Legion's legislative priorities

The VA claims backlog, sequestration and credentialing are The American Legion's top three legislative priorities, National Commander Jim Koutz told Congress on Oct. 3.

Testifying before a joint session of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs committees, Koutz was asked what he would do to reduce the claims backlog.

"The only way you're going to get that backlog taken care of is to hire more people," Koutz said. "And they've got to do the claims more accurately. When a claim comes back (from VA), the first thing we see is mistakes, and then it goes back to the regional office and we're starting all over again. (VA Secretary) Eric Shinseki said he'd like to see a 98 percent accuracy. If we get to that number, I think you'll see the backlog of claims reduced."

Koutz added that more VA clinics and staff are needed in rural areas. "Veterans are driving up to four hours, and when they get there, they probably can't get in," he said. "The problem is we don't have enough staff, doctors, medical equipment. If we add staff (and) add more clinics, I think that'd help these veterans."

The commander also called on Congress to see that national security and veterans programs are not sacrificed in Washington's budget battle. Previous legislation has included language that specifically protects VA programs from cuts. As the budget deficit widens, similar protections are necessary today, he said.

Meanwhile, the Legion will keep pushing the overhaul of licensure and certification policies as they relate to military job skills, at both the national and state levels. By working with credentialing and licensing agencies, the Legion hopes to help veterans receive credit for military training, maximize their abilities and move quickly into productive careers.

During a Q&A session, committee members praised the Legion for its filing of 244,000 VA benefits claims, at no charge to veterans, and a 76.6 percent success rate in getting incorrect VA disability ratings overturned. The Legion has also done "cutting-edge" work in the credentialing and licensing arena, and the development of a Claims Coach app to simplify the benefits process for veterans.



Photo courtesy Post 35

Bowen-Holliday Post 35, Traverse City, Mich.

Last December, Post 35 hosted its second annual Legion Christmas Reunion with members of Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 609 as honored guests. More than 100 people attended to honor these special veterans. The highlight was seeing the guests shake each and every Purple Heart veteran's hand and thank him for his service and sacrifices. Our Legion Christmas Reunion event is known throughout Michigan's Ninth District as one of the best happening, and we are honored to serve and recognize these patriots. This year's Legion Christmas Reunion will honor Korean War veterans.

—Becky Lawrence, Auxiliary Unit 35 member and Post 35 event planner



Photo courtesy Josh Daniels

Post 350, Needville, Texas

Our Christmas party in December 2011 became a homecoming party honoring Sgt. 1st Class Charles Armstead, who lost a leg in Iraq. His family came and was so thankful that we did this for him. Several of Charles' high school football teammates came too, and his coach, Monte Pritchett, presented him with a Needville Blue Jays helmet from his playing days, saying kind words about him being a fighter both on the football field and in recovery. Our congressman, Pete Olson, presented Charles with a certificate of appreciation and invited him to a 5K benefit for wounded warriors over in Sugar Land. We had barbecue chicken, and Charles' graduating class presented him with some gift cards to help finish out his home, which was built by a nonprofit organization. We inducted Charles into the post, and gave him an award and his membership card.

—Bradley Stavinoha, Post 350 adjutant



The Power Of Copper & Magnets!

Miracle Magnetic Bracelets

Many Believe In The Power Of Copper & Magnets To Help Ease Aches & Pain Naturally!

Magnetic Therapy Has Been Trusted For Centuries To Help:

- Improve Circulation
- Relieve Fatigue
- Reduce Joint Aches

Each Magnet Has 1,600 Gauss Power

**SAVE
50%**
Was \$12.97
Now Only \$6.48 each

FREE
surprise gift with every order!



All 3 Colors Available In Men's Or Ladies'



A Magnet On Each Link For 360° Coverage

www.DreamProductsCatalog.com

web offers may vary

ORDER NOW
TOLL-FREE

1-800-530-2689

OUR LOWEST PRICE EVER!

For centuries, men and women have turned to the power of natural healing to improve their health and relieve their aches and pains. Now you can, too – at 50% OFF SAVINGS! Both MAGNETIC BRACELETS have a powerful, 1,600-gauss magnet embedded in the underside of each link for 360° coverage. Men's 8½" L. Ladies' 7½" L. Copper, Silver or Gold tone finish over metal alloy. **SAVE 50%** on each when you order now.

Satisfaction Guaranteed or Return For Your Money Back

Miracle MAGNETIC BRACELETS			
	COPPER	SILVER	GOLD
#456 Ladies'	Qty _____	Qty _____	Qty _____
#457 Men's	Qty _____	Qty _____	Qty _____
 Miracle Magnetic Bracelets @ \$6.48 Each \$ _____ CA residents must add 7.25% sales tax \$ _____ Regular Shipping & Handling Add \$3.95 no matter how many ordered \$ 3.95 \$ 2.95 FOR EXPEDITED SHIPPING (optional) Add An Additional \$2.95 (receive your order 5-7 days from shipment) \$ 2.95			
		TOTAL \$ _____	

<input type="checkbox"/> VISA	<input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard	<input type="checkbox"/> Discover®/NOVUS™ Cards	Dept. 65851
Card# _____		Expiration Date _____ / _____	
Name _____			
Address _____			
City _____ ST _____ Zip _____			
Daytime Phone # _____			
Email Address _____			
Check or money order payable to: Dream Products, Inc. Send Order To: 412 Dream Lane, Van Nuys, CA 91496			

[HISTORY]

HOMETOWN HERO

Pearl Harbor survivor Frank Curre died on the attack's 70th anniversary.

BY DON BRADLEY

The anniversary of the Dec. 7, 1941, attack at Pearl Harbor is an opportunity for Americans to remember those who have served their country in the military, especially World War II veterans. The numbers of those who served in what they simply called "the war" are dwindling as old age now takes the generation that triumphed over the Axis powers of Nazi Germany, Japan and Italy.

One of these veterans was Frank Curre of Waco, Texas, who lived a life filled with ironies that began when the United States was attacked at Pearl Harbor.

Curre joined the Navy in June 1941 because he couldn't find work. The 17-year-old had to threaten to "bribe a hobo" to forge his mother's name to get her to sign off on his enlistment. On Dec. 7, 18-year-old Curre was a cook on the battleship *Tennessee* at Pearl Harbor when the Japanese attacked, killing nearly 2,400 Americans.

After the war, Curre became a popular visitor at Tennyson Middle School in Waco, where he captivated seventh- and eighth-graders with the tale of his "lucky break" at Pearl Harbor, when a bomb exploded near him on *Tennessee*'s deck and blew him, unharmed, into the water. He watched as another bomb, moments later, landed on the exact spot where he'd been standing.

Curre later served on the Navy escort carrier *Petrof Bay*, which saw action in the Leyte Gulf and at Peleliu, Iwo Jima and Okinawa. He did not know until after the war that *Petrof Bay* helped provide support for his brother, Edwin, as he went ashore with the third wave of Marines to secure Okinawa in June 1945. Neither knew the other was there until they had a conversation about the battle years later back in Waco.

[AWARDS]

Winners of post, department history contests announced

During the National Executive Committee's Fall Meetings in Indianapolis, dozens of Legion historians met to judge the National Post History and National Department History contests. Newly appointed National Historian N. Larry Rozier of North Carolina announced the winners during his report to the NEC. Out of 47 total entries – up from 42 last year – the top finishers in each category are:

One-Year Department Yearbook – First Award, Department of Ohio; Second Award, Department of North Carolina; Third Award, Department of Georgia

One-Year Department Narrative – First Award, Department of North Carolina; Second Award, Department of Maine



After the war, Curre returned to Waco, married and worked as a newspaper pressman for 60 years. He was a respected spokesman for veterans and volunteered for nearly 35 years at the VA hospital in Temple, Texas. Curre also was an active member of American Legion Post 121 in Waco and his beloved Pearl Harbor survivors group.

The national Pearl Harbor Survivors Association officially disbanded due to dwindling membership on Dec. 31, 2011, but its spirit lingers in the Lone Star State. Six members of the Central Texas chapter are still living.

Curre died at 88 on Dec. 7, 2011 – the 70th anniversary of the attack. He suffered from mesothelioma caused by his naval service; his disability for it had been approved just the day before. He wasn't able to accompany the Central Texas chapter on its last visit to Hawaii, but word was passed to the tour bus at Pearl Harbor, where passengers observed a moment of silence in his honor.

The students at Tennyson Middle School won't forget Curre, either. When they turned an empty classroom into a hall of honor for those who fought in World War II, they named it after him.

In one of Curre's last outings, he served as grand marshal of Waco's Veterans Day parade in 2011. Asked by a reporter what it's like to be a hero, he replied, "I'm not a hero. They're the ones who never made it home."

Don Bradley is an Air Force veteran and retired broadcasting professional. He lives in Waco, Texas.

One-Year Post Yearbook – First Award, Adams Township Post 553, Toledo, Ohio; Second Award, Charles S. Hatch Post 79, Berwick, Maine; Third Award, Alois Dreikosen Post 469, Marathon, Wis.

One-Year Post Narrative – First Award, Marshall S. Sayner Post 341, Bella Vista, Ark.; Second Award, Pony Express Post 359, St. Joseph, Mo.; Third Award, Frank E. Booma Post 6, Portsmouth, N.H.

Post and department historians should start now on next year's entries. Learn more about the National Association of Department Historians of The American Legion online:

 www.nadhal.org



[PERSONAL FINANCE]

Don't let holiday spirit undo your budget

FOCUS ON FINANCES



WITH JUNE WALBERT & J.J. MONTANARO

We've both served in the Army, and we've both worked in results-oriented sales jobs. So we understand that execution is everything. Visions, plans and preparations are important, but without proper follow-through they quickly become pointless. With that in mind, we've got four tips to help you execute your gift-buying plan with precision this year.

■ **Budget is the bottom line.** Determine how much you can afford to spend for gifts before you shop. Ideally, it's money you've already set aside, but regardless, shop within your means.

■ **Make a shopping list.** One of the easiest ways to get off track is to get caught up in the holiday spirit. Music, sales and a generally festive atmosphere can cause even the best plans to come unglued. Let your shopping list be your guide and guardrails. On sale or not, if an item is not on your list, it's a no-go. If you build a list that falls within your budget and stick to it, the beginning of the new year can be as enjoyable as the end of the old one.

■ **Go cash only.** Tote the vault. We love the convenience

and rewards that credit cards offer, but when it comes to holiday shopping you may want to leave home without them. They offer the greatest opportunity to spend what you don't have or didn't plan on spending. Stick to cash, and when it's gone, you're done.

■ **Creativity is a good thing.** Put thought over money. Make no mistake: there are no gifts being crafted at our houses. But maybe that's something you do. The idea is to create some gifts that don't cost a lot, but show that you care. These could be baked goods, coupons for services (babysitting, lawn mowing), or even cool photos that capture an important moment or friendship. Remember, the goal is to finish the holidays with no more debt than you had when you started.

Incorporate these techniques and you'll be smiling all the way through the holidays and right into the new year – without a big chunk of new debt.

June Lantz Walbert and J.J. Montanaro are certified financial planners for USAA, The American Legion's preferred provider of financial services. Submit questions for them online.

www.legion.org/focusonfinances

2013 AMERICAN LEGION CALENDAR

EVENT DATE	EVENT	EVENT CITY	AVAILABLE AIRPORT(S)
Jan. 11-12	Membership Planning Meeting	Indianapolis	IND
Feb. 22-27	Department Service Officer School/Washington Conference	Washington	DCA, BWI, IAD
April 19-21	Oratorical Scholarship Finals	Indianapolis	IND
May 3-9	NEC Spring Meetings	Indianapolis	IND
July 17-27	Boys Nation	Washington	DCA
Aug. 2-4	Department Service Officer School/Membership Workshop	Indianapolis	IND
Aug. 5-11	Junior Shooting Sports 3-Position Air Rifle National Championship	Colorado Springs, Colo.	COS
Aug. 8-12	American Legion Baseball Regionals	Various locations	BDL, LIT, IND, FAR, EUG, PHX, PHL, GSO, CLT
Aug. 15-22	Legion Baseball World Series	Shelby, N.C.	CLT, GSP
Aug. 19-30	95th National Convention	Houston	IAH, HOU
Sept. 20-22	Children & Youth Conference	Indianapolis	IND
Sept. 27-29	Americanism Conference	Indianapolis	IND
Oct. 11-17	NEC Fall Meetings	Indianapolis	IND
Oct. 26-Nov. 1	Legion College	Indianapolis	IND

[MEETINGS]

Discount airfare offered for 2013 Legion meetings

The American Legion has obtained discounts with American Airlines, Delta Airlines and United Airlines for the organization's 2013 meetings.

Those who want National Headquarters to obtain their airline tickets can contact Marti Wooden at **(317) 630-1232** or at **mwooden@legion.org**. Otherwise, Legionnaires can go through the airlines directly to obtain discounts. Tickets should be purchased at least 30 days prior to travel. Discounts vary depending on hub cities, advance ticketing and booking class of service for the reservations. Airlines typically charge a \$25 service fee to make reservations.

No discounts apply with Amtrak or Greyhound, but reservations can be made online at **www.amtrak.com** and **www.greyhound.com**, or by phone at **1-800-231-2222** for Greyhound.

AIRLINE CONTACTS

American Airlines	1-800-433-1790 – Reference Index No. 22408
Delta Airlines	1-800-328-1111 – Refer to File No. NMEX4
United Airlines	1-800-521-4041 – Reference Agreement Code No. 721185 and code ZNSN

"For 40-Years, I was tortured with unbearable indigestion"

Confessions of an acid reflux victim

"And How I BEAT the indigestion Nightmare that Almost Killed Me!"

By Ralph Burns;
"Former" acid reflux sufferer

Here's My Story:

I've Suffered With Acid Reflux for Almost 40 Years Now. Unless you experience it; you can't imagine how horrible it is. Every time I ate spicy foods I would get what I called "ROT GUT". Like something was rotting in my stomach. But now I can eat anything... No matter how spicy. Even if I never could before.

Let me explain...

For the better part of my life; I purposely avoided a lot of foods. Especially ones with even a tiny bit of seasoning. Because if I didn't, I'd experience a burning sensation through my esophagus— like somebody poured hot lead or battery acid down my throat. Add to that, those disgusting "mini-throw ups" and I was in "indigestion hell".

"I was beside myself. What was I gonna do? Keep taking the pills, or suffer with problems that could ultimately be my demise."

Doctors put me on all sorts of antacid remedies. But nothing worked. Or if they did, it would only be for a brief period. And then boom! My nightmare would return.

Sometimes, I felt like I was dying. The pain was unbearable and nothing could make it stop.

But then my wife, who occasionally suffered with the same problem; gave me one of her prescription acid blockers. It was a miracle. I felt like I could live again. Because before that, I was just miserable. I wanted to kill myself. But thankfully, it worked, and worked well.

I felt great, until about one year ago; when I read an FDA warning that scared the heck out of me. It went something like this...

FDA WARNING! Using proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) on a long term basis, increases your risk of hip, bone and spinal fractures.

That's a particular concern to me, since many acid blockers are PPI's. I've gone through two back surgeries and bilateral hip replacements. I had to ask myself, could PPI's have been responsible for my medical woes? After all...

"THE RECOMMENDED TREATMENT FOR PRILOSEC®, PREVACID® AND ALL OTHER PPI'S IS ONLY 14 DAYS—I TOOK THEM FOR 14 YEARS!"

I was "between a rock and a hard place". Stop using the PPI's and I'm a "dead man in the water". It would be unbearable. I wouldn't be able to eat anything. I'd have to go on a water diet.

But that FDA warning was scary. I knew I had to stop or else risk developing spinal stenosis. My mother had that. And I watched her die a horrible death. Her spine just fractured. It was the worst death. She didn't deserve that. And neither do I.

I had to quit. So I stopped taking PPI's for a day or so. But my indigestion was worse than ever. I would rather take the chance of a spinal fracture than to live like that again. I tried everything. Even started using home remedies like Apple cider vinegar. But it just felt like I was pouring even more acid down my throat.

Then one day at dinner, a friend of mine said "why don't you try an aloe drink?" I said "aloe drink"? Jeez. That doesn't sound good at all!" The next day he brought me a case of something called **AloeCure®**. I was skeptical, but I was desperate! So instead of being an ingrate I decided to try it.

I was shocked! *AloeCure®* tasted pretty good too. It has a pleasant grape



I used to get what I called 'Rot Gut', like my stomach's rotting out!"

63-year old Ralph Burns enjoying a spicy hot portion of Lobster Fra Diavolo. Just 15 minutes after taking *AloeCure®*

flavor that I actually enjoy drinking. I decided to experiment. I stopped taking the PPI's altogether and replaced it with a daily diet of *AloeCure®*. Then something remarkable happened... NOTHING! Not even the slightest hint of indigestion.

And here's the best part. The next day we had Italian food — my worst enemy. But for the first time in 40 years I didn't get indigestion without relying on prescription or OTC pills and tablets. Finally, I just didn't need them anymore!

I was so thrilled; I wrote the *AloeCure®* company to tell them how amazing their product is. They thanked me, and asked me to tell my story... The story that changed my life. I said "Sure, but only if you send me a hefty supply of *AloeCure®*. I just can't live without it."

But don't believe me. You have to try this stuff for yourself. I recommend *AloeCure®* to anyone who suffers with the same problem I did. It gives you immediate relief. You'll be grateful you did. I sure am. It's the best thing that's happened to me in a long, long time.

TRY IT 100% RISK-FREE!

The makers of *AloeCure®* have agreed to send you up to **6 FREE bottles PLUS 2 free bonus gifts** with every order—they're yours to keep no matter what.

That's enough *AloeCure®* for 30 days of powerful digestive relief, absolutely **FREE!** **But hurry!** This is a special introductory offer, reserved for our readers only.

Call Now, Toll-Free!
1-855-826-0653

COMRADES

How to submit a reunion

The American Legion Magazine publishes reunion notices for veterans. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Reunions, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**, fax (317) 630-1280, e-mail reunions@legion.org or submit information via our website, www.legion.org/reunions.

Include the branch of service and complete name of the group, no abbreviations, with your request. The listing also should include the reunion dates and city, along with a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Listings are publicized free of charge.

Your notice will appear on our Web site within a week and will remain available online until the final day of your reunion. Upon submission, please allow three months for your reunion to be published in print. **Due to the large number of reunions, The American Legion Magazine will publish a group's listing only once a year.**

Notices should be sent at least six months prior to the reunion to ensure timely publication.

Other notices

"In Search Of" is a means of getting in touch with people from your unit to plan a reunion. **We do not publish listings that seek people for interviews, research purposes, military photos or help in filing a VA claim.** Listings must include the name of the unit from which you seek people, the time period and the location, as well as a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: "In Search Of," P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**, fax (317) 630-1280 or e-mail reunions@legion.org.

The magazine will not publish names of individuals, only the name of the unit. Listings are published free of charge.

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded life

memberships by their posts. **This does not include a member's own Paid-Up-For-Life membership.** Notices must be submitted on official forms, which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Life Memberships, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**.

"Comrades in Distress" listings must be approved by the Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation division. If you are seeking to verify an injury received during service, contact your Legion department service officer for information on how to publish a notice.

To respond to a "Comrades in Distress" listing, send a letter to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Comrades in Distress, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**. Include the listing's CID number in your response.

"Taps" notices are published only for Legionnaires who served as department commanders or national officers.

AIR FORCE / ARMY AIR FORCES

55th & 58th Weather Recon Sqdns, Branson, MO, 6/5-8, Conrad Layton, (918) 446-5945, conradlay@aol.com; **100th Bomb Wing 8th AF**, San Diego, 4/28-5/2, David Lambert, (949) 786-1914, 3lambert@cox.net; **1374th M&C Sqn (1954-1955)**, Lady Lake, FL, 2/9-10, Frederick Miller, (352) 753-3622, pamfem@embarqmail.com; **Super Sabre Society**, Las Vegas, 4/9-12, Dewey Clawson, (724) 336-4273, deweyclawson@hotmail.com

ARMY

2nd Inf Rgt, Pigeon Forge, TN, 5/16-19, Israel Tames, (210) 239-6404, tames25@sbcglobal.net;

3/5 Cav Black Knights, Colorado Springs, CO, 6/20-24, Mike Cook, (502) 969-9202, mwtjcook@insightbb.com; **6th & 7th Bns 15th Arty**, Colorado Springs, CO, 5/16-19, Ray Tingstrom, (808) 271-1521, ertingstrom@yahoo.com; **458th Trans Co - PBRs, LARCs, DUKWs (1943-1977)**, Portland, OR, 6/5-8, Jim Winstead, (417) 894-2805, pbrmp@sbcglobal.net; **854th Trans Co (Qui Nhon, Vietnam, 1966-1968)**, Fort Myers, FL, 3/16, Tom Taylor, (734) 454-0347, redtom100@aol.com; **A Co 1st/501st Rgt 101st Abn Div (Vietnam, 1967-1972)**, Branson, MO, 6/5-8, Barry Gregorich, (724) 238-9317, barrygregorich@yahoo.com; **Aerial Rocket Assn (ARA)**, Hershey, PA, 6/5-9, Asa Talbot, (540) 298-7546, asatalbot@juno.com

COAST GUARD

Androscoggin WHEC 68, St. Petersburg, FL, 5/5-9, David White, (727) 204-4638, drwhite196@aol.com

MARINES

1st Bn 1st Mar Rgt (Vietnam), New Orleans, 7/13-16, Will Lomen, (206) 323-6461, wlomen@hotmail.com; **I Co 3rd Bn 7th Mar 1st Mar Div**, Myrtle Beach, SC, 4/24-27, Dennis Deibert, (717) 652-1695; **Ontos Crew**, Quantico, VA, 5/8-11, Louis Najfus, (678) 546-1444, najfus@hotmail.com; **Simon Lake AS 33**, Ocala, FL, 6/20-30, Charles Perry, (352) 875-5495, pops2000_34482@yahoo.com

NAVY

Chikaskia AO 54, Jacksonville, FL, 4/24-28, Robert Grant, (352) 753-7552, bobgrant1942@gmail.com; **Conyngham DD 371/DDG 17**, New Orleans, 5/19-23, David Suckow, (651) 681-1927, dsuckow@comcast.net; **Dahlgren DLG 2/DDG 43**, Erie, PA, 6/17-23, Joseph Coventree, (610) 659-8824, dlg12jc@yahoo.com; **Donner LSD 20**, Providence, RI, 5/2-5, Dennis Heimbach, (610) 775-7539, dheimba@usa.com; **Harry E. Hubbard DD 748**, Virginia Beach, VA, 5/15-19, Richard Oliver, (727) 363-3059, dd748@mac.com; **Hoel DDG 13**, Everett, WA, 8/9-12, John Peverly, (425) 335-4066, jpeverly@comcast.net; **Ingraham DD 694**, Indianapolis, 5/1-4, Gregg Miller, (814) 695-3246, gmmflyer@verizon.net; **Jenkins DD 447**, Washington, 5/15-19, Bob "Ski" Roginsky, (440) 582-5856, bjski1@aol.com; **Lapon SS 260/SSN 661**, Tucson, AZ, 6/20-23, Raymond Zieverink, (803) 324-1414, lapon.reunion@yahoo.com

Liberty AGTR 5, Savannah, GA, 5/26-29, Moe Shafer, (770) 363-3986, moe.shafer@harbingernational.com; **Mine Sqn 10**, Moncks Corner, SC, 4/26-28, P. Russell, pgrsr@comcast.net, prussell@detyners.com; **Moale DD 693**, Branson, MO, 4/28-5/2, Jim O'Donnell, (719) 542-7622, sylviaodon@aol.com; **Naval Nuclear Power Unit/PM-3A (Antarctica)**, Port Hueneme, CA, 5/6-11, Charlie Del Hierro, (805) 483-4060, cbsrchief@verizon.net; **NSA Da Nang, Vietnam**, Washington, 4/3-7, Bernie Uhrinek, (724) 353-9627, jbsar@salsgiver.com; **Portsmouth CL 102**, Herndon, VA, 4/25-29, Walt Hohner, (732) 463-1745, wphohner@aol.com; **Rasher SS 269**, New Orleans, 4/3-8, Richard Moore, (804) 815-0730, driferpilot@cox.net; **VA-23**, Pigeon Forge, TN, 6/24-28, Andy Anderson, (865) 523-2005, anderson032@comcast.net; **VS-29**, Pensacola Beach, FL, 4/22-26, Don Barnes, (850) 897-8946, catdonb@aol.com

DIAGNOSED WITH MESOTHELIOMA?

COMPENSATION MAY BE AVAILABLE

- ★ Asbestos exposure causes mesothelioma and lung cancer
- ★ Nearly 1/3 of mesothelioma cases involve US Navy or shipyard exposures
- ★ \$30 billion is available for asbestos victims and may help cover medical bills and provide financial security

TIME TO FILE A CLAIM IS LIMITED - CALL NOW

800-563-5460



SOKOLOVE LAW

THIS IS AN ADVERTISEMENT Sokolove Law, LLC (LLP in certain states), Wellesley/MA. Jim Sokolove admitted MA/NY only. 100 Church Street New York/NY. Members: Hardy Croxton, Rogers/AR, Rich Grabow, 10 Grand Street Hartford/CT (860) 633-1511, Ken LaVan, Ft. Lauderdale/FL, Nick Nighswander, Florence/KY, Michael Breaux, Gonzales, admitted LA, Gregg Hobbie, NJ. Matt Christian, 1007 East Washington Street, Greenville SC. The choice of a lawyer is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisements. No representation is made that the quality of the legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers. **While this firm maintains joint responsibility, most cases of this type are referred to other attorneys for principal responsibility.** Prior results do not guarantee similar outcome. The Wyoming State Bar does not certify any lawyer as a specialist or expert. Anyone considering a lawyer should independently investigate the lawyer's credentials and ability, and not rely upon advertisements or self-proclaimed expertise. FREE BACKGROUND INFORMATION AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.

TRY MAXODERMTM FREE!

Call 1-800-948-1431 for details

AGING IS NATURAL. GIVING UP ON YOUR VIRILITY ISN'T!

**BRING BACK THE BEST YEARS OF YOUR LIFE...
HERE'S HOW ONE MAN DID IT!**

Although this would otherwise be an embarrassing subject – I feel strongly about sharing my recent experience with others my age. Simply put, I'm 57 years old and even though I'm in good health overall, my body just doesn't respond like it used to. Intimacy and virility have become an issue.

Recently, I found myself struggling to "perform." I began losing my confidence and with it, my sense of "male prowess". I was feeling a great deal of pressure and embarrassment, my wife was beginning to think it was something she did or didn't do – it wasn't.

I wasn't comfortable discussing my situation with anyone – not even my doctor – so in a desperate attempt to find some help, I privately did some research on the web.

First, I found that many **HEALTHY** men experience a decrease in virility with age. I wasn't alone! Good blood circulation is the key to maintaining virility, and there are a number of factors that can weaken it.

Armed with this new information, I began to search through the many "male enhancement" products on the net. I found a pill and patch for everything and anything, but one product stood out among them - **Maxoderm** is completely different – not a pill or a patch, this surprisingly effective topical formula is delivered directly to the "source" – where I needed it most. Best of all, **Maxoderm** is recommended by **Leading Physician, Michael A. Savino, M.D., F.A.C.S.**, and you don't need a prescription. I don't need to swallow a pill, prescription or not, or wear some kind of patch on my shoulder!

After trying **Maxoderm** just once, I could actually feel it working immediately, it felt incredible! What a difference! I couldn't believe it - virility like I haven't felt in years! My driver's license says I'm 57, but thanks to **Maxoderm**, my wife says I'm 18 again! It feels great! I now know it's normal to experience some problems with virility at my age, but **Maxoderm** let me deal with it naturally. No pills – no patches – and even better – no embarrassing appointment with the doctor.

Try **Maxoderm**. You'll feel it working immediately, and can get back to living your life!.

Jim S. Miami, Florida

P.S. - I'm pretty sure you can still get a **FREE MONTH SUPPLY** of **MAXODERM** with your order by calling **1-800-948-1431**, or by visiting their website www.MAXODERM.com. Oh, and even better, this product is backed by a **30-Day Money Back Guarantee**! So call while supplies last - you (and your wife) will be glad you did!

Individual results may vary. These statements have not been evaluated by the FDA. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent any disease. The information featured above has been compiled from actual letters we've received from a few of our many satisfied customers. Dr. Savino is a compensated member of the Barmensen's Advisory Board. AMLE1112M0167



**"MY DRIVER'S LICENSE
SAYS I'M 57, BUT MY WIFE
SAYS I'M 18 AGAIN!"**

Clinically-Tested



RECOMMENDED BY A LEADING PHYSICIAN

" Reviewing the scientific data, I've found **MAXODERM**'s unique topical formula and usage plan can truly generate a healthy impact on male arousal and performance. **"**

Leading Physician, Dr. Michael A. Savino, E.A.C.S.

COMRADES

VX/VXE-6, Erlanger, KY, 6/12-16, Joe Hollern, (614) 906-6289, jhollern@wowway.com; **Wahoo SS 565**, Groton, NH, 5/2-4, Tom Young, (603) 362-5781, tank@tomandshirleyyoung.com; **Will Rogers SSBN 659**, Portsmouth, NH, 4/4-7, Frenchy DeFrehn, (860) 449-1958, ctsunshinell@aol.com

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Post 1, MN: Richard G. Ward

IN SEARCH OF

31st Tact Ftr Wing PACAF (Tuy Hoa AB, Vietnam, 1967-1968), Terry Schroeder, (480) 838-5554, oneazson@msn.com
53rd Stn Complement 445th HBG 8th AAF (Tibenham, England, May 1944-June 1945), Bart Bratko, (508) 651-8287, bartbratko2@gmail.com
66th Eng Co Topo (Fort Polk, LA, 1957-1958), Paul Hall, (352) 873-4361, barney.28@embarqmail.com
86th Black Hawk Inf Div Org (Europe & Philippines, 1942-1946), Bob Bookbinder, (954) 974-3511, carconed@aol.com
320th Eng Co Topo (Fort Polk, LA, 1955-1957), Paul Hall, (352) 873-4361, barney.28@embarqmail.com
716th MP BN B Co (Fort Dix, NJ, 1962-1963), John Gordish, (724) 697-4254
3743rd BMTS Flt W067 (Lackland AFB, TX), R. Turner Winston, djmas3@aol.com
4626th Support SAGE Sqdn (Topsham AFS, ME, 1965-1968), Malcolm Harmless, (765) 653-5736, mdhretired@gmail.com
6348th Munitions Maint Sqdn (Yamada Ammo Depot, Japan), Jim Agent, (479) 414-4233, jimagent112@yahoo.com
B Btry 1st TAB 26th FA (Babenhausen & Darmstadt, Germany, Nov 1968-Oct 1970), Barry Lighty, (765) 361-0917, bblighty14@gmail.com
Chinon General Depot Softball Team (France, 1961), Bob Baker, (610) 827-1293,

calgarygolden@yahoo.com

Co 521 (NTC San Diego, Oct 1961), Chuck Beardsley, (402) 493-0845, cedarbridge56@yahoo.com
F Co 28th Cav Recon Sqdn (Mecz) (Bayreuth, Germany, 1945-1946), Charles Chappuis, (337) 334-4707, moon1925@cox.net

Gen. W. P. Richardson AP 118 (CG Crew & Mar Det, WWII), Henry Don "Red" Smith, (540) 869-4353

H Co 26th Inf 1st Div "Big Red One" Blue Spaders Football Team (1949-1952), Frank Donato, (914) 235-4979

NAS Rota, Spain, Crash Crew (1958-1961), Mike Fisher, (501) 226-5121, phrama@aol.com

O Co Arctic Rangers 75th Inf (Alaska, 1970-1972), Larry Lee, (812) 366-3717, larryleeartcarranger19701971@gmail.com

Ramstein AB Baseball Team (Germany, 1963-1965), Billy Levens, (352) 556-7261, levensb2@att.net

River Sect 512 River Patrol Force TF 116 (July 1967-July 1968), Thomas Joseph Scola, (727) 372-9390, swap450@yahoo.com

Waikiki Marines NAD, Honolulu, Lanny Rogers, (814) 425-2425, golfnut@windstream.net
Walker AFB Baseball Team (1958), Billy Levens, (352) 556-7261, levensb2@att.net

TAPS

Juan H. Cintron, Dept. of Puerto Rico.

Nat'l Vice Cmdr. 1993-1994, Dept. Cmdr. 1950-1951, Nat'l Mbrshp. & Post Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1953-1954, Nat'l Veterans Preference Cmte. Memb. 1954-1955, Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Memb. 1955-1956 and 1978-1981, Nat'l Counter-Subversive Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1956-1957, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cmns. Vice Chmn. 1956-1962, Nat'l Inter-American Cmte. Memb. 1962-1963, Nat'l Naval Affairs Cmte. Memb. 1964-1967, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Alt. Memb. 1965-1967, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1967-1968 and 1987-1991, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cmns. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1967-1968, 1987-1988 and

1989-1991, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1976-1977, 1978-1988 and 1994-1995, Nat'l Public Relations Cmns. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1988-1989, and Nat'l Foreign Relations Cmns. Nat'l Cmdr.'s Rep. 1991-1993 and 1995-1998.

Francis W. Ethun Sr., Dept. of Texas. Nat'l & Homeland Sec. Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1989-1990, Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Vice Chmn. 1990-1992 and Nat'l Foreign Relations Cmns. Memb. 1992-2012.

Michael H. Hogan, Dept. of Iowa. Nat'l Children & Youth Cmns. Region 6 Memb. 1999-2003 and 2005-2012, Nat'l Children & Youth Cmns. Region 6 Vice Chmn. 2003-2004 and Nat'l Children & Youth Cmns. Region 6 Chmn. 2004-2005.

John A. Jarosinski, Dept. of Maryland. Nat'l Naval Affairs Cmte. Consultant 1992-2012.

Lois M. Rand, Dept. of Wisconsin. Nat'l Child Welfare Cmns. Region 5 Memb. 1959-1963, 1965-1966 and 1968-1970, Nat'l Child Welfare Cmns. Region 5 Vice Chmn. 1963-1964 and 1966-1967, Nat'l Child Welfare Cmns. Region 5 Chmn. 1964-1965 and 1967-1968, Nat'l Children & Youth Cmns. Region 5 Memb. 1970-1972, 1974-1975 and 1977-1980, Nat'l Children & Youth Cmns. Region 5 Vice Chmn. 1972-1973 and 1975-1976, and Nat'l Children & Youth Cmns. Region 5 Chmn. 1973-1974 and 1976-1977.

Ernest N. Schmit, Dept. of North Carolina. Nat'l Adj. 1967, Dept. Cmdr. 1957-1958, Nat'l & Homeland Sec. Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1965-1966, Nat'l Cmdr.'s Aide 1966-1967, Nat'l Sec. Cmns. Memb. 1966-1972, Nat'l Finance Cmns. Ex-Officio Sec. 1967, Nat'l Overseas Graves Decoration Trust Sec. 1967, 50th Anniversary Cmte. Ex-Officio Memb. 1967, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1972-1980, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cmns. Liaison Cmte. Chmn. 1972-1980, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Chmn. 1980-1981, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cmns. Consultant 1981-1984, Nat'l Conv. Cmns. Memb. 1984-2006 and Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Vice Chmn. 2006-2007.

VETERANS

MOBILIZE YOUR VA BENEFITS CLAIM

Service Officer Directory

Frequently Asked Questions

Personal VA Claim Organizer

Glossary of VA Terms

AND MUCH MORE!



The American Legion's Claims Coach app takes the pain out of the process.



DOWNLOAD FREE TODAY!

Available for Apple and Android mobile devices

Learn more at www.legion.org/mobileapps

LEGION SHOPPER

VIAGRA®
Cialis® LEVITRA®

HABLAMOS ESPAÑOL
VIAMEDIC®
SAFE • SECURE • DISCREET
www.viamedic.com
800.547.9942
ORDER ONLINE, BY PHONE OR MOBILE DEVICE!

DIGITAL HEARING SALE

5 year warranty Made in the U.S.A.	\$339.95 Any size or style	NEW! OPEN FIT TECHNOLOGY
	\$249.95 to \$499.95 none higher	Most Brands
		Repairs \$77 ^{ea} Since 1981

FREE Telephone Hearing Test
FREE Consultation with Technician
FREE TRIAL • FREE S&H

Hearing ONE • 1-800-249-4163
100 Main St., Marty, SD 57361
NOT AVAILABLE IN WA

U.S. MILITARY MEDALS & RIBBONS
FREE COLOR CATALOG!
TOLL FREE TEL: 800-864-5062
PATTERNS
VETS SUPPLY LINE
10550 CO RD 81, #218
MAPLE GROVE, MN 55369
WEB SITE: www.MilitaryVetsPX.com
CUSTOM BALL CAPS-NAVY SHIP CAPS
DOG TAGS

Moving?

Exclusive Savings for Legion Families!

FREE estimates! Do you qualify for discounts?
Call or visit the Legion Member web page today!

800.524.5533
<http://Legion.movingnavl.com>

800.871.8864
<http://Legion.movingallied.com>

BUCKLES • PATCHES • HAT PINS • MEDALS • BALL CAPS

- FREE COLOR CATALOG
- 2500+ Military Designs
- Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines
- **Call now! Toll-free!**
1-888-223-1159
- Custom pins & patches available.
Dealer inquiries welcome.

HONORS
by Hoover's Mfg., Co.
P.O. Box 547AL, Peru, IL 61354
Fax: 1-815-223-1499
Email: dave@hmchonors.com
Website: www.hmchonors.com

HEARING AIDS
UP TO 60% SAVINGS

This is all you wear!

30-DAY TRIAL

TRY BEFORE YOU BUY

GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICES!

- ALL MAKES & MODELS
- TERMS ARRANGED
- 30 YRS. EXPERIENCE
- ALL MAKE REPAIRS
- CUSTOM INSTRUMENT SPECIALISTS

FOR FREE INFORMATION CALL:

1-800-323-4212
We're the oldest, biggest and best

LLOYDS, DEPT. AL, P.O. BOX 7355, ROCKFORD, IL 61126
Visit our Website at www.lloydhearingaid.com
NOT AVAILABLE IN WA.

SENNHEISER
TV Amplifiers are the Solution!
www.harriscomm.com/shtv

HARRIS
COMMUNICATIONS

FREE Catalog!
(800) 825-6758

STRONGER THAN VIAGRA®

Pharmaceutical Grade Without Prescription!

(30 pills) - 100mg	\$59.95
(60 pills) - 100mg	\$99.95
(90 pills) - 100mg	\$139.95

* Free Shipping * Discreet Packaging
* Money Back Guarantee
Credit Cards & Checks By Phone.

TOLL FREE ORDER LINE 1-866-611-6891

Or Send Check or M.O. To:
P.E. Labs, 6409 S. Western Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73139-1703

Viagra® is a registered trademark of Pfizer Inc.
order online www.pillmedica.com

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

(Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)

1. Title of Publication:	THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE		
2. Publication Number:	0886-1234		
3. Date of filing:	September 29, 2012		
4. Frequency of issue:	Monthly		
5. No. of issues published annually:	12		
6. Annual subscription price:	\$3.00		
7. Complete mailing address of known office of publication:	5745 Lee Road, Indianapolis, Indiana 46216 (Marion County)		
8. Complete mailing address of headquarters of general business offices of the publisher:	700 N. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, Indiana 46204		
9. Names and addresses of publisher, editor and managing editor:			
Publisher:	Jeffrey Stoffer, 700 N. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, Indiana 46204		
Editor:	Jeffrey Stoffer, 700 N. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, Indiana 46204		
Managing Editor:	Matt Grills, 700 N. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, Indiana 46204		
10. Owner:	The American Legion Headquarters, 700 N. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, Indiana 46204		
11. Known bondholders, mortgages, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities:	None		
12. Tax Status:	The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal income tax purposes have not changed during the preceding 12 months.		
13. Publication Title:	The American Legion Magazine		
14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below:	September 2012		
15. Extent and nature of circulation:			
	Average number of copies each issue during preceding 12 months	Actual number of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date	
a. Total number of copies printed	2,297,193	2,301,972	
b. Paid and/or requested circulation			
1. Paid/Requested outside-county subscriptions stated on Form 3541	2,288,898	2,291,774	
2. Paid in-county subscriptions	0	0	
3. Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors, counter sales, and other non-USPS paid distribution	4,196	4,187	
4. Other classes mailed through the USPS	0	0	
c. Total paid and/or requested circulation (<i>Sum of 1b(1), (2), (3), and (4)</i>)	2,293,094	2,295,961	
d. Free distribution by mail			
1. Outside-county as stated on Form 3541	3,449	5,387	
2. In-county as stated on Form 3541	0	0	
3. Other classes mailed through the USPS	0	0	
e. Free distribution outside the mail	0	0	
f. Total Free distribution (<i>Sum of 1d and 1e</i>)	3,449	5,387	
g. Total distribution (<i>Sum of 1c and 1f</i>)	2,296,543	2,301,348	
h. Copies not distributed	650	624	
i. Total (<i>Sum of 1g and h</i>)	2,297,193	2,301,972	
j. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation	99.85	99.77	

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete.

Jeffrey Stoffer, Publisher

PARTING SHOTS

An apple a day keeps the doctor away. An onion a day keeps everyone away.

I ASKED MY SHRINK to show me one positive result from all my visits. He showed me his new Porsche.

A SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER asked one of her students what he planned to give his younger brother for Christmas.

"I don't know," the little boy replied. "I gave him chicken pox last year."

A BOY TOLD HIS FATHER that he wanted to drive Army tanks when he grew up.

"Well, son," his father replied, "if that's what you want to do, I won't stand in your way."

AN UNEMPLOYMENT OFFICER said to an applicant, "I see you've found temporary work."

"That's right," the applicant beamed. "I'm a substitute Santa at a department store."

"What's your job title?"

"Subordinate Claus."

ONE VEGETARIAN said to another, "I'm so hungry I could eat a horseradish."

A WIFE ENTERED the study to find her husband talking to their family lawyer and examining some papers on a table.

"What are you doing?" she demanded.

"Making a wish," her husband replied meekly.

"A wish?"

"Yes, dear. In your presence, I won't presume to call it a will."



*"Good news, General. Only the first row is real.
The rest are computer generated."*



*"Sir, we all chipped in and got you
a monthlong trip abroad for Christmas."*



"I'm feeling Claus-trophobic!"

A GROUP OF PREGNANT WOMEN and their husbands attended a prenatal class. The instructor emphasized the importance of staying healthy during pregnancy.

"Ladies, exercise is good for you," she said. "Walking is quite beneficial. And gentlemen, it wouldn't kill you to walk with her."

One man piped up, "Is it OK if she carries a golf bag while she's walking?"

ONE CHILD on the playground said to another, "My father is very important. He's a Lion, a Moose and an Elk."

"Gee," the other child replied, "how much does it cost to see him?"

ARE YOU HAPPY the NFL strike is over? Those NFL replacement refs were so bad they thought the Green Bay Packers were a Wisconsin moving company." – Jay Leno



Asbestos **Cancer Hits Former Sailors**

Many sailors who served their country proudly aboard ships in the World War II, Korean, and Vietnam War eras, are now being diagnosed with asbestos-related cancers.

FOR COMPENSATION INFORMATION:

FREE PACKET for mesothelioma or lung cancer, diagnosis/death,
please contact:



The David Law Firm
"Defeating Today's Goliaths"

Toll Free 1-800-998-9729

Email: info@thedavidlawfirm.com
www.asbestos-attorney.com/n4658

The David Law Firm, P.C.
Jonathan David*
2202 Timberloch Place, #200
The Woodlands, TX 77380
(Greater Houston Area)

Handling cases nationwide with local co-counsel in state of filing.

FOR MEDICAL INFORMATION:

FREE PACKET for mesothelioma patients, **please contact:**



Mesothelioma Web
*Hope * Support * Help*

Toll Free 1-877-367-6376

Email: info@mesotheliomaweb.org
www.mesotheliomaweb.org/n4658

The most comprehensive resource for Mesothelioma patients and their families.

\$10 OFF LAST YEAR'S LOW PRICE!

ICE HOUSE™

Flannel-Lined PANTS

Now

19⁹⁹

per pair
when you
buy 2

were 2
for 49.98

Home heating costs are only going up! But for every degree you lower your thermostat for 8 hours, your bill is reduced by 1%! So put on our top-to-toe warm Ice House™ Flannel-Lined Pants, turn down that thermostat 4 or 5 degrees & **SAVE, SAVE, SAVE!**

- Two Flannel-lined front, & two back pockets
- Rugged outer Cotton/Polyester twill
- 100% Cotton lining
- Pre-shrunk for perfect fit
- Full S-T-R-E-T-C-H waist with snap closure and zip-fly
- Hefty belt loops
- **Under \$20!**

Plus

Soft Flannel SHIRTS 9⁹⁹ each



Choice of 5 colors, made of durable, extra-soft cotton & polyester brushed flannel! Adjustable cuffs & two handy chest pockets. Machine wash & dry.

All Shirt Sizes Same Low Price!

Shirt Sizes: Regular: S(34-36)
M(38-40) L(42-44) XL(46-48)

Big & Tall Men: 2XL(50-52) 3XL(54-56)
4XL(58-60) LT(42-44) XLT(46-48)
2XT(50-52) 3XT(54-56)



**NO-IRON
Wash & Wear!**

FULL STRETCH WAIST!



Haband!

#1 Bargain Place
Jessup, PA 18434-1834

\$10 OFF!

**Flannel-Lined
PANTS**

only 19^{99*}
per pair when
you buy 2
2 for 39.98 3 for 56.97

**Soft Flannel
SHIRTS**
9⁹⁹ each

Haband #1 Bargain Place, Jessup, PA 18434-1834



Visa MC Discover® AmEx Check Network

Card # _____ Exp.: _____ / _____

Mr. Mrs. Ms. _____

Address _____ Apt. # _____

City & State _____ Zip _____

Phone/Email _____

Pants	On-Line Quick Order:			Shirts	On-Line Quick Order:			
	7A5-01N2A	WHAT WAIST?	WHAT INSEAM?	HOW MANY?		7A5-1255M	WHAT SIZE?	HOW MANY?
02	TAN				03	NAVY		
01	BLACK				PQ	BURGUNDY		
03	NAVY				JT	BLACK		
6J	GREY HEATHER				11	GREEN		
8V	ICE HOUSE BLUE				KD	RUST		

ORDER YOUR NORMAL WAIST SIZE!

Waists: 32 34 36 38 40 42 44

*Big Men (\$5 more per pair): 46 48 50

Inseams: XS(25-26) S(27-28) M(29-30)

L(31-32) XL(33-34)

Send _____ shirts & _____ pants.

I enclose \$_____ purchase price plus \$5.99 shipping. In GA add sales tax.

100% Satisfaction Guaranteed
or Full Refund of Merchandise Purchase Price!

When you pay by check, you authorize us to use information from your check to clear it electronically. Funds may be withdrawn from your account as soon as the same day we receive your payment, and you will not receive your check back from your financial institution.

For Faster Service Call: 1-800-543-4810 or Go Online: www.Haband.com/bestdeals